

THE WES EXPRESS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8 MARCH 2011

Sunday, March 27, 6:00 pm

Community Dinner!

Get on board for our much-loved, highly energetic, and always delicious Community Dinner...a time for us to talk about how we are connected to WES and to each other, and to make our financial commitments to our community.



This year will feature as much hilarity as ever, plenty of music, and as always a chance to spend an evening just having fun with your WES community. Please join us!

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CALENDAR	

UPCOMING PLATFORM DESCRIPTIONS

Sunday, March 6: Platform Series, Part 2—"The Suffering of Others" Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. Amanda will continue our exploration of Adler's "three spiritual pains" as she focuses on how we experience the suffering of those around us. Drawing on wisdom from world religions, particularly Buddhism, Amanda will imagine how this "spiritual pain" might have influenced Ethical Culture's early social justice work and how it motivates our work as individuals and a community today. Music by Melodie Feather with a pick-up chorus: all are invited to come at 9:30 for one rehearsal to sing that morning.

Sunday, March 13: Platform Series, Part 3—"Our Divided Conscience" Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. In the final part of our series exploring Adler's spiritual pains, Amanda will examine the struggle every person faces between the values we profess...and the lives we actually lead. Very few of us behave just as we would hope to in every moment of our lives—and yet we must somehow take those very disappointments and use them as the building blocks of our next attempts. How do we move forward in life when we can never be fully who we wish we were? Join Amanda for this soul-searching, and ultimately affirming, finale to her

platform series. Music by Melodie Feather and the WES Chorus.

Sunday, March 20: "The Troubled Legacy" Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd. It's been several years now since Prince William County VA, the home of my congregation, served as a flash-point of controversy regarding local enforcement of federal immigration law. Rather than taking a particular political stand on federal immigration law, I'll tell the story of what happened in Prince William County and relate the spiritual and communal price we continue to pay in exchange for immigration enforcement on the local level.

Rev. Ladd is the Minister at Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Music by guests from Bull Run.

Sunday, March 27: "Paying it Forward" Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. Amanda will explore America's economic system and how it does—and doesn't—serve our need for justice in the world. She also examine the value-worth paradigm in Ethical Culture, and talk about justice in our own congregational economic picture. Music by Melodie Feather and the WES Chorus.

February's theme:

Awe and Wonder

The story:

“On the Day You Were Born” by Debra Frasier

THE VIEW FROM 16TH STREET ...

AMANDA POPPEI

I am especially excited about our theme this month—Awe and Wonder—because they are integral parts of a religious experience of the world. In fact, I would say they are part of a human experience of the world.

For humanists, though, it has sometimes been difficult to articulate our experience of awe and wonder. The idea can get wrapped up in traditional religious trappings, and suddenly we think that we're only “supposed” to experience wonder in a big gothic church...so if that doesn't work for us, maybe wonder doesn't either.

I think nothing could be further from the truth. The humanist's emphasis on lived experience is actually one that ties us deeply to a sense of wonder, alert as we are to the

connections we have to other human beings and to the world around us. For many humanists, the natural world provides a setting for experience of awe and wonder. For others, it's the look on our children's faces or the experience of building a relationship with someone who is radically different from ourselves. And for at least one humanist, moments of awe and wonder can come while driving around listening to country music—the arc of the steel guitar transporting me from the everyday to the sublime.

Of course, even the most awe-inspired among us can't just turn on the “wonder switch” whenever we feel like a little inspiration. I do think, though, that we can prepare ourselves to be good at

noticing, to be open to experiences of awe and wonder as they come to us.

Multitasking, I have found, is not conducive to experiencing wonder. Neither is rushing from moment to moment—there isn't enough time to notice the beauty around us.

What helps me is slowing down, being quiet. It doesn't necessarily mean that I experience wonder in that second (the “wonder switch” still doesn't work automatically), but it seems to open me up to experience moments of wonder at other times in my day. Being on vacation reminds me of the importance of slowing down...suddenly every sunset is achingly beautiful, every walk has a magical bird nest just waiting to be found. Sunsets and bird nests don't only exist on vacation,

though, and being quiet at other times helps me to remember that.

To that end, this month I'd like to invite you to join me in finding some quiet. On Sunday mornings for the month of March, I'll be holding a silent meditation time in the WES library from 10:15-10:30. I'll welcome people and introduce the time, then we'll just sit and...not say anything. Children are welcome to join their parents; if parents of babies and toddlers are interested in attending and would need childcare, talk to me and let's see what we can figure out. If you arrive to the room late, just come on in and join us in silence.

I'm curious to see how this experiment will go. Will anyone join me in my search for quiet during March? Do you need a little more silence in your life? If so, come be quiet with me.

Ways to engage with the theme this month:

Theme discussion class with Amanda on Tuesday, March 1

Platform service on March 6—see how Amanda ties Adler’s spiritual pain of suffering into an experience of awe and wonder!

Time for All Ages story on March 6—bring in an object from nature that brings you wonder to give to the children

Sunday morning meditation in the WES library, 10:15-10:30, all month

A poem of awe and wonder, from contemporary American poet Robert Bly...

The Blind Old Man

I don't know why so much sweetness hovers around us.
Nor why the wind blows the curtains in the afternoons,
Nor why the earth mutters so much about its children.

We'll never know why the snow falls through the night,
Nor how the heron stretches her long legs,
Nor why we feel so abandoned in the morning.

We have never understood how birds manage to fly,
Nor who the genius is who makes up dreams,
Nor how heaven and earth can appear in a poem.

We don't know why the rain falls so long.
The ditchdigger turns up one shovel after another.
The herons go on stitching the heavens together.

We've never heard about the day we were conceived
Nor the doctor who helped us to be born,
Nor that blind old man who decides when we will die.

It's hard to understand why the sun rises,
And why our children are mostly fond of us,
And why the wind blows the curtains in the afternoon.

FROM YOUR BOARD

by Perry Beider

I'd like to start this column by asking you a few questions.

- Do you like being a member of WES—whether that's been for one year or 40 years?
- Does your current level of involvement with WES make you feel good, and do you have a desire to give back to the community in new ways?
- Are you a strategic thinker—someone who asks questions such as “Where do we want to be in five years?” or “What's the best, most ethical way for us to achieve our goals?”
- Is it important to you that WES thrive and grow in its ability to live out its mission?
- Does the idea of working with six other dedicated WES members, in partnership with Amanda and Mary, sound appealing?

If you answered “yes” to most of those questions, the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee encourage you to think about running for the Board in the election to be held at the Spring Membership

Meeting on May 22nd.

What's involved in serving on the Board? A primary expectation of Trustees is regular attendance at twice-monthly meetings, typically held in the evening at the WES meeting hall. But more broadly, Trustees are expected to help the Board in its roles of overseeing WES's affairs, acting on behalf of the membership, and serving as stewards of WES's financial, physical, and human resources. Next year's Board will help to shape how WES operates for years to come, because it will be setting up, trying, and evaluating new systems and structures recommended by the Governance Task Force and approved for a trial run by the membership.

And speaking of the Governance Task Force, one thing that will already be changed next year as a result of its work is that the Board will have seven members, rather than nine. That change, based on substantial best practice literature and experiences, was passed as an amendment to the WES Constitution at last fall's Membership Meeting.

Also part of the trial run this year will be the selection of a *President-Elect* by the outgoing 2010-11 Board. Previously, all Board Officers were elected by the new Board at the retreat the weekend after the election. This did not always provide the smoothest or most well-informed transition. To address this, the Board will be selecting a *President-Elect* next month, who will assume the position of *President* when the new Board takes office in June.

The *President-Elect* will be chosen from among the Trustees whose term continues next year or whose terms are up but are running for re-election; this year, that means Jonathan Tomer (continuing for his second year), John Daken and I (running for re-election). If John or I is chosen as *President-Elect* by the current Board but is not re-elected by the membership, the new Board will fall back on picking its *President* along with its other officers.

Six of next year's seven Trustees will be elected in May, so the job of the Nominating Committee is even more important

than usual. In addition to the three regularly scheduled two-year slots, there will also be three one-year slots, created because Judith Johnson had to step down from the Board in January and Mark McElreath and Molly McGoff will be unable to serve the second year of their term. Fortunately, we have a terrific group serving on the Committee—Mark, Molly, John Campbell, Sera Morgan, Laura Steele, and current Board member Donna Taylor, with assistance and advice from Amanda. I know they will give us a strong and diverse slate of candidates.

Let me add my voice to those of the Committee in encouraging WES members of all ages and lengths of membership to consider serving on the Board. If you are interested in running this year, or in talking about the possibility of doing so in the future, please contact any member of the Committee or the Board.

MELODIE'S MUSINGS

MELODIE FEATHER

Our music is being shared beyond the walls of WES! I am delighted that several of our WES Chorus members are planning to sing in the Metro DC UU Choir Festival on 3/26. Many of the songs that are being sung, we already know, and most of the others will be heard at WES in the coming months! It's still not too late to sign up to participate, but I need to hear from you ASAP! My hope is that others of you might

come to enjoy the concert that begins at 2pm.

3/26 - 9am to 3pm - Metro DC UU Choir Festival; Concert begins at 2pm. A day of singing (pre-rehearsed) songs together concluding with a concert. Over 200 singers expected. Hosted by: UU Church of Arlington, VA, 4444 Arlington Blvd, 22204

And don't forget this opportunity to sing in community as well...no rehearsal required:

3/5 - 8pm - Ysaye Barnwell Community Sing. Hosted by: Cedar Lane UU, Bethesda, MD

If you're interested in participating with any of these, please let me know. For more info, contact Melodie at: melodie@ethicalsociety.org.

Dates of Note:

The WES Chorus will be singing at Sunday morning Platform Services on:

3/13

3/27 - Stewardship Sunday

4/10 - Spring Festival

Other Dates of Note:

3/6 - **Pickup Chorus** - one rehearsal on Sunday morning from 9:30am to 10:30am. All welcome.

Regular Chorus rehearsals continue on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:45pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

PEGGY GOETZ

Summer Dreaming

I don't know about you, but I am thrilled to say, "Goodbye" to February and simply ecstatic to say, "Hello" to March. By this point in the winter, I am longing for hot summer days. That's one of the many reasons I enjoy accompanying our youth on their summer service delegation to El Rodeo, El Salvador! (See the article on page 8).

Share your Wonder

The warm weather gets me outside where I am always amazed by the wonder and beauty of the natural world. The symmetry of a pine-

cone or the texture of a piece of bark or the form of a seashell can really lift my spirits. On March 6th we will launch our module on Awe and Wonder. The elementary aged children are asked to bring in one completely natural object which they find amazing. Do you have a beautiful natural object that you would be willing to bring in on March 6th and contribute to their exploration? We invite your participation with the understanding that your object will be enjoyed by the children but not necessarily returned to you. I look forward to seeing all the wondrous things

we will share!

Mystery Pals to be Revealed!

To liven up the month of February, WES Mystery Pals exchanged notes, baby pictures, jokes, poems and the like. Excitement filled the air as the pals opened their latest mail each Sunday and tried to crack the mystery. With tasty food and fun activities, the pals will meet and get to know each other during a special party on March 6th at 12:45pm.

A huge thank you goes to the Mystery Pals Team for creating such a wonderful way for our young people to make a closer connection with an adult in our community. Team members included

Mary Bauer, Laura Bradshaw, Julie Campbell, Cayo Gamber, Roberta Geier and Jen Watson, chair.

Mystery Pals is now an annual WES tradition. If you missed out this year, consider participating next year!

GOVERNANCE REVISION UPDATE

Over the course of the fall, the Governance Task Force has worked with the Board and the Leaders to put together a portfolio of governance revision proposals. We think they will be of great benefit to WES and look forward to sharing them with the membership. Many of the proposals clarify current practices or make modest changes to reflect best practices. Other proposals would result in more significant changes, like:

- Statement of Purpose Revision: every five years (starting this spring), the community votes on

whether to initiate a one-year revision process culminating in a membership vote

- Replace the Board Nominating Committee with a broader and more sustained process conducted by a Lay Leadership Development Committee (LLDC), elected by the membership
- Move WES' major planning retreat from June to January, and expand the participant pool
- Ensure a smoother transition from one Board year to the next by having the Board elect a President-Elect each

March

- Clarify the process for the removal of a Board member
- Shrink the Board from 9 members to 7, starting with the upcoming election

In the coming weeks we will establish a page on the WES website to house these proposals for all to review. We have a currently dormant listserv that we will employ if there is interest; just contact us if you wish to sign up.

The Governance Task Force will conduct another membership forum on March __, and an additional event shortly before the

membership meeting in May, when the membership will be asked to vote on whether to conduct a "trial run" of these proposals. We will not be amending the constitution at this stage, and so a simple majority vote will be required to proceed. Please email any (or all) of us if you have questions or input.

John Daken on behalf of the GTF: Peter Kent, Amanda Poppei, Bob Pokorny, Laura Steele

WINTER GETAWAY WAS GREAT FUN

By Emily Glazer

Although we did not have as much snow as we would have liked, the 50+ people who participated in the Winter Weekend at Camp Soles during Presidents Birthday Weekend had a great time! Several kids found a snowy shaded hill at the Camp for sledding, and many adults enjoyed hiking around the property. Families of all ages went down-hill skiing, tubing, or swimming at nearby resorts. One even took advantage of

Seven Spring's childcare (with fun activities, lunch, snacks, and a nap) for their youngest family member, to enable the others to spend the day on the slopes.

Of course there were lots of wholesome indoor activities right at the camp - including board games and a challenging 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle completed in less than a day by large group of enthusiastic participants. And there was always live music by the fireplace, as well as opportunities to read, relax, visit with old

friends and make new ones.

One night we "swung our partners" in an intergenerational square dance with a live caller and band and plenty of refreshments. Other nights we enjoyed wine and cheese, s'mores, and hanging out.

WES members were joined by members of the Christ Congregational Church (near Four Corners), a very compatible group with whom we have partnered for this event

for a number of years; and friends, neighbors, and family. We hope to expand our gathering to include other groups and individuals in years to come.

Whether you're a "regular" or have never been on the WES Winter Weekend, we hope you'll save the dates (Presidents Birthday weekend, Feb. 17-20, 2012), and join the fun next year!

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Joseph Priestley District Assembly: Stewards of Faith: Justice Making, Leadership Development, and All-Ages Ministry. April 9-10, Hilton in Harrisburg, PA

Future of Ethical Societies (FES) Conference - Save the Date!!! May 27-30, Brooklyn, NY. FES's annual conference is a way for FES members to reconnect with old friends, welcome new members into the group, and explore a new community and Ethical Society. As part of FES's commitment to giving back to the communities it visits, the members of FES will be assisting in several Brooklyn community gardens during this year's conference. In addition to community service, FES members also explore the area they are visiting, and New York City has no shortage of sightseeing opportunities. The weekend will round out with Sunday Platform at the Brooklyn Society which will be presented by FES. If you are interested in more information regarding this year's conference, want to know ways you can become involved in FES or the conference, or know a 17-28 year old adult that might be interested in participating in FES's conference, please contact Jessica Blumberg at jblumbi@gmail.com.

AEU YES Conference Coordinator Position Open

The AEU is funding a position for a YES Conference Coordinator to plan and organize the annual YES conferences. More information can be found at www.aeu.org.

Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award

Dear WES Members,

The critical skills and diversified talents that our volunteers bring to our Societies, and the enormous amount of their devoted time, are essential to the growth and development of our Societies and the Ethical Culture Movement.

In recognition of this, the AEU has asked us to solicit nominations for the American Ethical Union's Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award that will be presented during the 2011 Assembly at the Columbus Airport Marriott, Columbus, Ohio on June 18, 2011.

Each year every Society may present nominations for this award prior to each AEU Board meeting. There are two more opportunities to present nominations for this award at the AEU Board Meetings. The nominations must be received by February 26, 2011 for the March 26th AEU Board Meeting. (And by April 21, 2011 for the May 21 AEU Board meeting)

To nominate someone you should receive the approval of the WES Board and then inform the nominee of your intentions to ascertain their availability and interest. The official description of the award and nomination form are available from the office. Nominations should be e-mailed to L. Miller, at lmiller.aeu@gmail.com or mailed directly to the AEU office at Two West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023

Sincerely,

Nancy Sorden (with Jo London)

Joseph Priestley District Representative to UUA Board of Trustees To Be Elected

Three candidates are running for the UUA Board of Trustees as the representative of the mid-Atlantic "Joseph Priestly District": Natalia Averett from the UU Church of Arlington, VA; Elyse Reznick from the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE, and Ken Shilling from Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation in Bowie, MD. Whoever is elected at the JPD Assembly in Harrisburg, PA on April 9th will join a UUA Board facing major decisions about proposals to shrink and restructure the Board, revisit the UUA's district structure, and change from annual to biennial General Assemblies. WES members who want to meet the candidates will have an opportunity to do so at the last of the four candidate forums being held around the JPD, this one at the UU Church of Silver Spring, on April 2nd from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS UPDATE—DELEGATION TO EL SALVADOR

By Julie Farrar

Exciting news items from **WES Global Connections**:

We are excited to announce the dates for the summer delegation to our sister community, El Rodeo in El Salvador. The 10-day delegation will leave Thursday July 7 and return Sunday July 17. While the community of El Rodeo will determine the daily activities, the delegates will probably do some or all of the following:

- repairs to the school (painting, install a railing, fix the roof, etc.)
- household surveys - WES youth, paired w/ youth from the

community, will visit each of the 30 homes and collect demographic information

- prepare for evening community gatherings during which we will engage in *Community Capacity Building* activities such as making Seasonal Calendars, mapping Daily or Weekly Activity Schedules, Institutional Analysis, etc
- participate in daily life - working in the fields, helping in the kitchen, assisting with the laundry, helping in the school, and playing soccer!

El Rodeo can accommodate a maximum

of 12 delegates. Our plan is to include a minimum of two adults and up to ten WES teenagers; the ratio of teens to adults may vary. Sean Taft-Morales will be the principal trip leader. His skills in translating, facilitating, emergency medical training, as well as being a repeat group leader, add immeasurably to the delegation. He will also work closely with our liaison in El Salvador, Cristina Star, who will stay in the community to assist with the delegation.

Want to learn more? Come to an Information Session on Sunday, March 13 at 12:45. Applications will be due



March 27. Please contact **Peggy Goetz** to receive an application or additional information: peggyg@ethicalsociety.org

AND ... The water filters so desperately needed in El Rodeo and generously purchased by WES members will have arrived in El Rodeo, by the time you read this. Thanks so much for your support of this valuable project. This is a simple yet huge step in improving the health of the community.

WATER SAVING TIPS FROM EARTH ETHICS

by Sue Jacobson

Easy access to clean, safe water can no longer be taken for granted. Water will be a seriously scarce resource in the coming decades as we move from a population of 7 billion today to a projected world population of 9 billion in 2045-50. For the D.C. area, stream flow and groundwater levels are below-normal levels as a result of insufficient precipitation this winter. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook shows that for the March-May 2011 period,

drought development is likely. What will this mean for us in terms of voluntary or mandatory water conservation and restrictions is still to be determined. However, each of us can help to save this precious resource.

Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a water fixture failed or a pipe burst.

To find out if you have a leak in your toilet tank add food coloring

and see if it leaks from the tank into the bowl. Fixing it can save more than 7,000 gallons a year.

Make sure your toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing; if it does, replace it.

Turn off faucets tightly. Listen for dripping...a drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks. Designate one glass for your drinking water

each day to avoid washing multiple glasses.

Running your dishwasher only when it is full could save 400 gallons per month.

Cut back on rinsing dishes - use a wet sponge to wipe dishes as needed rather than running water for rinsing.

Soak your pots and pans instead of letting water run while you scrape them clean.

Wash clothes
Cont. page 9

WES EXPLORES MEMBERSHIP IN THE WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK

About two years ago, Amanda put out a call in the newsletter to WES members interested in social justice work—a follow up to a social justice summit in which interfaith work was identified as a key priority for WES. Those of us who gathered in response initiated the Community Organizing Team and began to explore how best to work with other congregations to create change in DC.

Working with WIN (Washington Interfaith Network) was among our first actions, as a group. The Youth Power Network, a non-profit member of WIN, sponsored a bus tour to highlight a number of places in the wards adjacent to WES where no adequate recreational facilities were available for either young people or the elderly. This tour was a fascinating and moving experience for those of us who attended.

Now, some of us on the Community Organizing Team may be asking you for a one-on-one conversation, to learn more about you and tell you about WIN. Founded in 1996, WIN is a large network of DC congregations working through their numbers to win (no pun intended) commitments from poli-

ticians in such areas as affordable housing, rec centers for youth, and jobs--particularly for these youth. The projects that WIN takes on are based on relationships...on the relationships that congregations have with each other and the relationships of individuals within those congregations. WIN listens to what individuals think needs to be changed in DC, and then they work to make that a reality.

WES could join WIN -- in fact WIN would like for us to do so. But it is all of you WES members who must decide. Come to one of the WIN meetings or actions (the large meetings with the politicians where numbers are so important) and find out yourself what it is like.

Right now, WIN is a coalition of mostly Christian churches. As WES considers membership, we are also reaching out to synagogues and other non-Christian groups to add to the diversity represented at the WIN table. As Amanda writes, "I'm really excited about the potential to change the culture of an organization...to me that's part of the appeal of joining WIN, actually, our chance to be proactive in that way."

WES Community Organizing Team member Trish Weil shares her experience: "I have felt very fortunate to be able to work with other WES members within the framework that WIN provides. Creating the framework itself is such a large part of the work! We know that WIN's values match our own. With their proven ability to be effective, we have a true opportunity to join in and profit from

their hard work and experience."

Please feel free to ask any of us about WIN, and keep an eye out for a platform in May that will address the WIN experience and model. We hope to be talking to you soon!

Randee Chafkin, Caricia Fisher, Peter Kent, Jo London, Christine Parcelli, Trish Weil, Marcia West

Once a Year to WIN It!

Do you want to be involved in social justice but don't have the time for one more meeting? Sign up to be part of our "Once a Year to WIN It" list and we'll call you for an occasional drop-in...attending a city-wide meeting or packing the council chambers. Getting big crowds a few times a year is important to WIN's strategy, and an easy way for you to make a difference without a big time commitment. Contact

Water saving tips, cont.

only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons per month.

Install low-volume toilets and low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.

Turn off water while shaving or brushing teeth to save more than 1000 gallons per year.

A bathtub full of water uses up to 70 gallons, but taking a 5

minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons. If you take a bath, fill the tub only half way.

Consider installing new Energy Star appliances. They are more water and energy efficient than old ones. A new washing machine can save up to 20 gallons per load.

Coming Up at WES...

Theme Discussion: Awe and Wonder—Tuesday, March 1, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Join Senior Leader Amanda for an exploration of our monthly theme. Each month, she will dive into the writings of Felix Adler and other Ethical Culture and humanist thinkers to unpack what the theme might mean for our community and our time. Please register for this class at the Connections Table.

Book Discussion Group: "The Big Short" by Michael Lewis—Sunday, March 6, 4:00 p.m. For more information and location, contact Tony Nam, tonyknam@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

The Coming Energy Transition Workshop—Mondays, March 7, 14, & 21, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Cheap, dependable energy is what makes today's standard of living possible. But this kind of energy is limited in supply, and the atmosphere will only safely absorb a limited amount of the waste products. Join WES member Richard Smith for a conversation about what will be next for energy.

Menu for the Future Discussion Group—2nd and 4th Thursdays through May, 7:30-9:00 p.m. This discussion group will focus on food, agricultural processes, and sustainable practices. Participants will explore the effects of modern eating habits on human health, society, and the Earth; gain insight into practices that promote personal and ecological well-being; and consider ways to support sustainable food systems. Readings from the Northwest Earth Institute require 1-2 hours of reading each week.

From One Method, Many Dishes—Friday, March 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m. This cooking class, led by caterer and WES member Nancy Marucci, will demonstrate the classic technique of "Sauté – Braise – Finish" a single method that can lead to a wide variety of meals. Some hands-on participation will be offered, and we will eat what we cook. We will be working with meat, poultry and fish. A class minimum of 7 participants is necessary, so sign up and bring a friend, partner, or housemate!

Biology Reading Group—Sunday, March 20, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Facilitated by Barbara Searle, this group examines biology in modern thought. The book we will use as the basis of our discussion will be *The Birth of the Mind: How a Tiny Number of Genes Creates the Complexity of Human Thought* by Gary Marcus. The assignment is to read the first three chapters. As always, everyone is welcome. No background in biology is necessary and one can even get away without doing the reading! BYO lunch.

"9500 Liberty" Film Showing and Discussion—Sunday, March 20, 12:45 p.m. Nearby Prince William County, Virginia, becomes ground zero in America's explosive battle over immigration policy when elected officials adopt a law requiring police officers to question anyone who they suspect is an undocumented immigrant. Concerned residents organize and resist, using YouTube and virtual town-halls, setting up a real-life showdown in the seat of county government. "9500 Liberty" provides a front row seat to one of the most important struggles of our times. Discussion to follow, featuring film participant Carlos Castro. The film will be introduced by platform speaker Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd, also featured in the film. This showing is sponsored by the Global Connections Committee.

Fundamentals of Living and Speaking Peace—Saturday, March 26, 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Gandhi said "Be the change you want to see in the world." *Nonviolent Communication (NVC)* offers a conceptual framework and skills for being in the world that are revolutionary in their potential for supporting personal and societal peace and vitality. Yet, the approach is rooted in what we all know how to do when we are our best selves, and supports living in alignment with our deepest values. The course offers participants a chance to *learn about, experience, and begin to develop skills in, the full framework of NVC ideas and tools* that support living with more peace, closeness, joy, authenticity and aliveness. This class will be led by WES member Bob Wentworth, who is certified as a trainer by the international *Center for Nonviolent Communication*. This class runs on seven Mondays, and is \$35; please sign up at the Connections Table.

By Peggy Goetz

**Sugarfootn' With Sugarfoots
Saturday, March 19,
4:00 p.m. Admission
is FREE!**

Whether you are 4 or 94, join us for an exciting, 45-minute, participatory performance celebrating the richness of Black History. This powerful fusion of storytelling and comic overture will leave you wanting more, as you learn about Black History.

The show features Barbara El Wilson who directed the WES Winter Festival in 2009 to much acclaim. She is a graduate of Howard University's Drama Department, an accom-

plished actress, comedienne and storyteller and has performed throughout the Washington metropolitan area and the East Coast.

Sugarfoots Summer Camp at WES!

In Sugarfoots Performing Arts Camp, children will be instructed by professionals in the industry in acting, dance, art and music. The Camp will aid our young actors in finding their own voices, developing a strong sense of self and the confidence to address any audience. Final performances are adapted from stories from the Sugarfoots book series!

The camp will be held at WES, from **June 27 through August 12, 2011**. Hours of the camp are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Sugarfoots Company Chef prepares exquisite kid friendly meals; breakfast, lunch and a mid-afternoon snack will be served daily. A dinner theatre performance will take place at the end of the camp.

Special Discounted Rate For the first 20 applicants -- This Offer Not Available on the Web. Must be paid in full by April 30, 2011. For More Information Call (202) 723-8890 or Visit



www.sugarfoots.com

SUMMER CAMP FEES:

Early Registration Deadline: April 30, 2011
Before or on April 30, 2011 -- \$1350.00
After April 30, 2011 \$1750.00
\$50.00 Non-Refundable Application Fee to be included with the registration form
Payment by check or credit card (MC, Visa, Amex, Discover)

WES MEMBERS INVITED TO FOLKLORE SOCIETY CONCERT

Saturday, March 5, 8 pm: Samuel James

Samuel James is a throwback – an original bluesman, a songster and a *monster* guitar player. Just 30 years old, he would have fit in with musicians of the 1930s, '40s or '50s. He does play the blues standard on occasion, but it's a custom version – his own. And his compositions tell stories. Just one song might include infidelity, humor, murder and the KKK.

Sound like the old ballads?

Samuel's grandfather played blues guitar in the songster era. Samuel learned his way around the piano as a kid from his dad – a professional pianist and trombonist. A tap dancer at 5 and professional performer by 12, Samuel lived in foster homes after his mother died. The story goes that a youthful broken heart sent him to recuperate in Ireland, but lacking

funds for the return trip, he took to busking – and learned harmonica as he earned his fare home. Once back home in Maine – oh yes, that *hotbed of the blues, Maine* – Samuel decided to try making a living at music, and threw himself into mastering the guitar (both fingerstyle and slide), also banjo, harmonica and piano.

You probably haven't heard or seen Samuel James. You'll be telling others about

him once you've experienced this fine entertainer on our March program – at 8 pm on Saturday, March 5, at the Washington Ethical Society Auditorium, 7750 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20012; General admission is \$15, free to members and WES members.



WASHINGTON ETHICAL SOCIETY
7750 16TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20012
(202) 882-6650

Staff

Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader

Mary Herman, Leader for
Congregational Life

Christine Parcelli, Administrator

Peggy Goetz, Sunday School Director

Melodie Feather, Director of Music

Mark Sorden, Facilities Manager



WE'RE ONLINE!

WWW.ETHICALSOCIETY.ORG

~A HUMANISTIC RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY~

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO CELEBRATE TOGETHER, SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, AND HELP EACH OTHER TO LIVE OUR VALUES THROUGH ETHICAL ACTION. WE PUT OUR FAITH IN HUMAN GOODNESS, WORKING TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR LIVES AND IN THE WORLD AT LARGE.

WES IS AN ETHICAL CULTURE CONGREGATION AND A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION AND THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION.

COMING UP AT WES

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|--------------------|--|
| Tuesday, March 1 | Theme Discussion—Awe and Wonder |
| Friday, March 4 | First Fridays lunch and discussion group |
| Sunday, March 6 | Newcomers' Q & A
Mystery Pals Party (for current pals)
Book discussion group |
| Monday, March 7 | The Coming Energy Crisis |
| Thursday, March 10 | Board of Trustees meeting
Menu for the Future discussion group |
| Sunday, March 13 | Introduction to Living and Speaking Peace |
| Friday, March 18 | From One Method, Many Dishes class |
| Sunday, March 20 | Biology reading group |
| Thursday, March 24 | Board of Trustees meeting |
| Saturday, March 26 | Living and Speaking Peace class |
| Sunday, March 27 | Unconditional Parenting group
Community Dinner |

Details in our [online calendar](#) or by calling the WES office.