# Upcoming Platform Addresses

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***The Washington Ethical Society is a humanistic congregation that affirms the worth of every person.***

We strive through our relationships to elicit the best in the human spirit. With faith in human goodness, we appreciate each person’s unique capacities. We joyfully celebrate together and support each other through life. We nurture a sense of reverence and responsibility for each other and the earth.

We invite you to join our community of children and adults as we work for a world where love and justice cross all borders.

[***ethicalsociety.org***](http://www.ethicalsociety.org/)

**Sunday, November 3 “Many Windows, One Light” Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader.** Ethical Culture was founded partly on the idea that ethics is at the heart of all religious traditions. After all, we're not that different from each other--right? As we begin our monthly theme of Harmony through Differences, Amanda will explore what different religions share, and what sets them apart. Music from the WES Chorus.

**Sunday, November 10 “What to Do When ‘the best lack all conviction/ while the worst are filled with a passionate intensity’\*” (\*William Butler Yeats, “The Second Coming”), Dr. Andrew Bard Schmookler.**The crisis that has been manifesting in our times in the American political system can neither be understood nor successfully resolved without looking at levels deeper than the politics. So says Dr. Andrew Bard Schmookler, a social thinker who has spent more than forty years developing an integrative vision of the forces that shape the destiny of civilized societies.

**Sunday, November 17  “Ain’t It the Truth?” Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader.**How do we decide something is true? What convinces us—a book? Our own experience? Another person’s story? Amanda explores these questions as they have been answered by religious traditions, philosophers, and plain old people. Music from Josh Blinder.

**Sunday, November 24 “Stone Soup Sunday” Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader, Mary Herman, Leader for Congregational Life, and friends!** Join us for our annual celebration of gratitude and abundance as we look at the Stone Soup story through the lens of our monthly theme, Harmony Through Differences. After the platform we will gather for a special lunch; details on page 4.

**Theme Reflection:**

**Monthly Theme:  
Harmony Through Differences**

* Time for All Ages: “Old Turtle and the Broken Truth” by Douglas Wood, told on November 2
* Platform Addresses on November 3: “Many Windows, One Light” – November 17: “Ain’t It the Truth?”
* Harmony Through Differences at Stone Soup Sunday, November 24

*Check out Senior Leader Amanda Poppei’s blog: yearningforgoodness.blogspot.com.*

**Harmony Through Differences**

***Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader***

Does your car have a bumper sticker? Mine has two—a WES bumper sticker, of course, and one for marriage equality in Maryland. I love reading bumper stickers, actually, like a little window into what the people around me are thinking about, caring about. And I like to play a game; would *this* car go to WES? With this combination of bumper stickers, would they want to be part of our community? How about this one?

The bumper sticker that makes me think of WES and WES values most often is a common one; I’m sure you’ve seen it. It’s “coexist” written with all religious symbols instead of letters. It comes in various flavors, actually—I’ve seen “respect” and “tolerance” too, and at least one of those has a symbol for science snuck in there. Every time I see a car with one of those stickers, I think to myself “Hey, they should come to WES! They’re us!”

I’ve been thinking about that idea—coexistence—as I contemplate this month’s theme: Harmony Through Differences. I don’t think I could quite manage to write out that whole phrase in religious symbols, not even if I included some of the lesser-known religions. And actually, I’m not sure it’s quite the same thing.

Coexistence, tolerance, and respect are all worthy goals, goals we teach our children and try to live ourselves. But harmony through differences is something more. It doesn’t just say we should try to get along…it sets out the ideal that we are made *more* by getting along, that we are made *more* by the things that could be seen as separating us from each other. Our strength, our beauty, it says, is precisely about the fact that we don’t all look, or talk, or think the same. Harmony in music, after all, isn’t about everyone singing the same note. It’s about what we hear, the richness of sound, when we sing different notes together.

I’m not proposing a new WES bumper sticker, the one we have works just fine for me. But as I see those coexist stickers around town, I think I’m going to remind myself that along with coexisting I want to listen for the harmony that comes with it. I’m going to listen for the beautiful sound of all those religious symbols, all of our religious beliefs, all of our preferences and truths and stories humming along together. That would really be a WES car.

“Pull a quote from the article and highlighting it using the “Quote” Style.

**Board Members**

Tom Bishop

John Daken

Adam Goldberg

Sera Morgan

Ellen Post

Susan Runner

Perry Saidman

# From the Board – President’s Reflection

***See you at our membership meeting on November 10th!***

**Board Members**

Tom Bishop

John Daken

Adam Goldberg

Sera Morgan

Ellen Post

Susan Runner

Perry Saidman

***John Daken, President***

As this column goes to press, I am working with our membership meeting moderator Mairi Rothman, our VP Sera Morgan, Amanda, and Mary to plan our upcoming meeting set for November 10th. It can’t possibly match the auction for entertainment value, but it’s a great opportunity for our community to enjoy a meal together, hear about the six months gone by, and plan together for the months to come. WES members will soon be receiving a membership meeting packet containing (among other things) a Board report describing our work over the course of the first half of the year. For this WES Express, I wish to turn to another important topic – the ethical movement and WES’s place in it.

Over its 135+ year history, the ethical movement has experienced hills and valleys. For some time, however, the number of members has been decreasing. The movement went through a particularly difficult period 10-15 years ago, with nationwide society membership dropping more than ten percent in only a few years, accompanied by significant breakdowns in the functioning of the movement’s central organizing body, the American Ethical Union (AEU). In the ensuing years, the AEU shifted back to firmer footing, but concerns about the health of the movement prompted WES to conduct some significant soul-searching about its national affiliation(s). Our membership asked itself, what type(s) of denominational affiliations – if any – will best help us achieve our mission? After considerable deliberation, we settled upon a plan to keep WES engaged as a member of the AEU, but to expand our horizons by also joining the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The relationship between WES and the AEU had reached a low ebb when I ran for the AEU board in the spring of 2006. I was unable to make much of an impact in my year on the AEU Board, but I do think I succeeded in keeping WES and the rest of the movement in connection with one another.

The ensuing years have brought with them a remarkable rapprochement between WES and the AEU, both at the organizational level and through the active involvement of WES members. Laura Steele succeeded me on the AEU Board and has never left! Mary Herman, Amanda Poppei, and Hugh Taft-Morales completed AEU Leader certification. Hank Gassner (who we share with NoVES) has joined Laura on the AEU Board, Jo London serves on the Leadership Committee, and Jennifer Dreyfus serves on the Board Development Committee. At Jennifer’s invitation, I had the pleasure of conducting a training for the AEU Board last spring, and as I noted in my July board column, close to 40 WES members lead or attended events at the AEU Assembly last June. WES is again a major presence in the ethical movement and a valued partner with our sister societies across the country.

As positive as these changes have been, I urge us not to lose sight of the fact that the erosion of the ethical movement continues apace. In the five years since WES decided to remain in the AEU, nationwide society membership has fallen another fourteen percent (to around 1900 people). While there are two dozen clergy Leaders active in the movement, only three are employed full-time. Turning the movement around will require commitment to our principles and a willingness to speak hard truths, even to those we deeply respect.

“WES is again a major presence in the ethical movement and a valued partner with our sister societies across the country”

Those of you who attended platform on October 8th heard James Croft challenge the movement to pursue more fully the inspirational message inherent in Adler’s vision. Many of us have seen this in practice at the past two AEU Assemblies, where the National Leaders Council has stepped up magnificently to dramatically improve the depth and quality of the programming. The turn-around will also depend on effective operation of the business side of the organization. In this regard, I have been gratified to see the AEU Board moving more and more to strengthen its self-governance – improving its capacity to provide effective oversight of finances and personnel, and increasing its transparency. In 2012, the Assembly endorsed the hiring of Bart Worden as part-time Executive Director, the first time in over a decade that a member of the clergy has held this position – a natural fit given the ambassadorial nature of the role. Bart has brought a thoughtful and forward-thinking perspective to the AEU central office.

Looking ahead, I believe that the next step in the revitalization of the AEU is a concerted effort on the part of the two largest societies in the movement – St. Louis and WES, who together make up over one-third of total EC membership nationwide. In the second half of my presidency I hope to begin a conversation with my counterpart in St. Louis as well as our societies’ three Leaders, to explore what our sister organizations might be able to accomplish – in partnership with the AEU Board and NLC – to open up new possibilities for the ethical movement.

# Sunday School News

***Recently in Sunday School…***

*The K-5th grade children explored the theme of Forgiveness, creating special jigsaw puzzles that could be “put back together” just the way our relationships can be put back together.*

*The Coming of Age class overcame challenges and drew on team work at the ropes course.*

*The teens continued preparations for the Youth in Ethical Societies conference, in DC November 8-11*

## Peggy Goetz, Sunday School Director

**Sunday, November 24th**

**Stone Soup Celebration & Giving Tree Project Kick-off!**

Each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect upon the abundance in our lives, enjoy delicious soup and the good company of our WES community.   The morning begins with a multi-generational Platform service during which the children come forward, each putting their stone and vegetable into the pot.  The Stone Soup story is told in many cultures.  The soup is our meal and our metaphor. To experience that our abundance in life comes from what we individually and collectively contribute, we will feast on a meal as rich as the offerings we each bring.

**Adults please contribute according to your last name:**

**A-G**: sliced bread or rolls, butter, spreads, cheese

**H-O**: apple cider

**P-Z**: pumpkin pie and whipped cream

Children, remember to bring a clean, fist-sized stone and one raw, whole vegetable!    Parents, plan to arrive at 10:30.  Bring a quart size bag of frozen vegetables and deliver them to the table in the downstairs lobby.  We’ll also need your help with various set-up and clean-up tasks associated with the meal.  Plan to linger and enjoy a simple meal and the opportunity to savor time with WES friends - old and new.

A special feature of our Stone Soup celebration is **The Giving Tree Project,** providing 80 holiday gifts each year to families in need**.** Eachornament on the Giving Tree bears the name and age of a child or adult and a specific gift request.  Participants sign out an ornament, purchase and wrap the gift and return it to WES by Sunday, December 15th.  Not a shopper?  You may also make a contribution; there will be a basket to receive donations at the sign-up table. Experience the spirit of giving by participating in this WES holiday tradition!  For more information or contact Pam Williams [301-270-8913](tel:301-270-8913) or [pam.williams115@gmail.com](mailto:pam.williams115@gmail.com)

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**Festival Chorus!**

Two beloved traditions at WES, Stone Soup and Winter Fest, are quickly approaching. This year, Bailey, our chorus director, and the entire regular WES chorus, invite YOU to join us to sing for one or both events.

Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights from 7-9 pm. Stone Soup rehearsals will occur on Nov. 6, 13, and 20, with Stone Soup platform on Nov. 24.

More details about Winter Fest rehearsals will be announced in the upcoming weeks. If you or your child would like to join the Festival Chorus, please email Bailey at [whitemanb@ethicalsociety.org](mailto:whitemanb@ethicalsociety.org)! Two rehearsals minimum, all ages welcome, although children must be accompanied by an adult (and be able to handle the evening rehearsal time.)

We look forward to seeing you!

# Photo: 12 members of the WES chorus, along with Chorus Director Bailey Whiteman and Senior Leader Amanda Poppei, are rocking out at a workshop with music director extraordinaire David Smith.Music Notes

## Bailey Whiteman, Chorus Director

**A Musical Field Trip!**

On October 19th and 20th, 14 WES Choristers and members took the opportunity to go on a musical field trip to UU Church of Silver Spring to work with David Smith, Director of Youth and Children’s Choirs at All Souls Unitarian, in Tulsa, OK. Saturday, David led an all day workshop, teaching the more than 80 folks in the room a series of songs from both the 2 UU hymnals and popular culture. There were numerous clergy (including Amanda!), 8 music directors including me, plus members from many local UU churches, as well as the community at large. We learned harmonies to back up soloists, and pieces to do as a full choir. The next morning, many of us returned to sing in one (or two!) rousing services full of music, energy, and meaning, and some WES members came to support us as well.

Here are some responses from WES members who attended either the workshop, the service, or both:

**Dorothy Broadman** said, *It was wonderful to be able to sing gospel music without Jesus. We had great turnout from WES, we were well represented.* She experienced, *excellent teaching, great songs, beautiful harmonies…truly inclusive as it worked for all from beginner (no music to read) to expert singer. David was lively, vibrant, and truly in-the moment as he composed harmonies real time…He magically kept us engaged throughout.*

**Mibi Leuvelink** said, *For me the David Smith workshop stretches what you think you can do, and the adrenalin carries you through.*

From **Francy Hays**, *What engaged me was the focus, discipline and sustained energy of the day. The service was both craft and jubilation.*

**Shirley Storms**, who came to the service on Sunday morning, said:

*I was very moved by the whole morning, on several levels. I know how much (my daughter and WES chorus member) Karen needs to sing and was so grateful that she had the opportunity to be a part of it. The music was joyful and having a large group like that just made it feel so powerful. I loved that there were guitars and drums.*

*This was my first visit to [a UU congregation], so my other reactions were just to the service similarities and differences, and the building and the people there. (It made me think we should have a couple of Sundays where we share services or half of us go there and half of them come to us. It helped me understand the reason we are affiliated with them.)…I left feeling so happy to know there were more groups of really sweet people like WES people, trying so hard to make the World a better place and make connections.*

***“Music…touches my heart and helps me feel connected…it moves me to feel vulnerable and joyful, but also opens me to my own sadness.”***

She went on to say:  
*The older I get the more music seems to be the thing that manages get through the protective armor I have developed. It touches my heart and helps me feel connected. I am searching for a phrase here; it moves me to feel vulnerable and joyful, but also opens me to my own sadness. I guess it can still pierce my protective bubble. I was always a crier, and in the years since my husband's death I can't seem to cry anymore, but I come closest to that catharsis when I am moved by music.*

Lastly, **Virginia Wheaton**, who was unable due to work commitments to attend on Saturday, but came on Sunday for the service, had this to say:

*I've taken a David Smith Workshop before and so of course I envied those who participated in this one... During the Sunday service, everything seemed seamless, as if the choir had been rehearsing together for weeks, not just one day. A minister who sings in the choir, and another one who plays a mean guitar -- wow. Amanda? Mary? We know you both have musical gifts! Hearing all those voices made me hope for a bigger WES Chorus.*

I, Bailey, was deeply moved to have so many WES members participate in the workshop and the services. It felt great to have WES represented at another congregation, and for WES members to be able to experience this exciting music and community. And I think the words of WES members show how powerful music can be, for musicians and listeners alike.

N.B. Please make note of the invitation in the newsletter to join the Festival Chorus for Stone Soup. Everyone is welcome!

**Earth Ethics Movie Announcement**   
  
The WES community is invited to join the members of Earth Ethics on Sunday, November 24, at 7:00 pm in the Social Hall to view the movie "The End of the Line." The viewing, which is free with donations invited, will be followed by a brief discussion.  
  
This thought-provoking film by Rupert Murray subverts our ancient faith in the ocean as an inexhaustible resource, offering a persuasive case that the major species of edible fish are headed for extinction — by some estimates, as soon as the middle of this century.  
  
For further information, please contact Linda Silversmith, [301-641-9508](tel:301-641-9508) or [lindas@capaccess.org](mailto:lindas@capaccess.org) .

***Welcome New Members!***

***New Member Ceremony November 10***

Join us as we

celebrate and welcome our

newest members:

Lori Betstock

Paulette Lee

Karen Russell

Patricia Sanabria

Kate Steiner

Frederick Steiner

Karen Storms

Brian David

Rachel Alexander

**Lay Leadership Committee Vacancy**

As we look forward to our upcoming membership meeting the Lay Leadership Development Committee, LLDC, is required to request nominations from the membership when there is a vacancy on this committee. This year there is a seat coming vacant as Rachel Hartig completes her two year term. At the same time because Rachel was elected to a two year term rather than three, she is eligible for a full three year term. She has informed the committee that she wishes to re-up. Concurrently nominations from the membership are also welcomed.

Interest and/or questions may be directed to any of the LLDC members: John Campbell, Rachel Hartig, Susan Runner or [Laura Steele](mailto:lsteele66@verizon.net).

**COA-MATT Program Announcement**

WE NEED (YOUR?) HOUSE FOR TWO NIGHTS: This year's awesome WES COA-MATT group needs your vacation house! We are still in need of a vacation house for two nights in early December for our next COA retreat. The needed dates are midday Friday, December 6th through midday Sunday, December 8th. A donation would be hugely appreciated and you will receive a tax deduction letter in kind. Small is fine; we will be dividing into two groups for this retreat. One home has already been identified for the larger of the two groups. Our smaller group is probably just six people at most and we can sleep wherever. Please contact COA-MATT Coordinator Heather Rion Starr at [heathermstarr@yahoo.com](mailto:heathermstarr@yahoo.com) ASAP if you have a home you can loan to us. Thank you. Thank you! THANK YOU!

**DC Labor Chorus Announcement**

***Be aware!***

*The small bridge on Kalmia Road will be closed for repairs for 6 months – a detour is marked*

*Keep an eye on your belongings when at WES events – we are a busy place and things do go missing*

**Save the Date!**

*WES’ wonderful*

***Winter Festival***

*Saturday,*

*December 14*

*Be sure to invite family and friends to join us for this extraordinary magical evening.*



**DC LABOR CHORUS**’ **Holiday Concert of Favorite and Sacred Songs!**

**Saturday, December 7th at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

[Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, 20912](http://goo.gl/maps/wALt2)

Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted.

Come sing along on many of the eclectic offering of songs by James Weldon Johnson, James Acuff, Takoma’s own Joe Glazer, Bob Marley, Labi Siffre, Elise Witt. Songs in Spanish and songs in Hebrew, and holiday and parody carols, of course!

The DC Labor Chorus is a musical ensemble representing labor and social justice groups in the DC metro area. Some of us are professional musicians, but most of us just love to sing.  The DC Labor Chorus sings for rallies, demonstrations, and picket lines.

We invite like-minded folks to join us. We rehearse most Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Ethical Society. Come to a rehearsal prepared to audition by singing two songs of your choosing.

**Questions?   Call:** [**202-639-6204**](tel:202-639-6204)

Susan Schreiber and Pam Larson, concert co-producers

**Coming Up at WES**

**Friday, November 1**

**First Fridays Lunch and Discussion, 12:30 to 2 pm, Social Hall.**“Other Community Connections”: Peter Kent will present “Forum Theatre,” about a group producing adventurous, relevant, and challenging plays from a diversity of voices that inspire discussion and build community ([http://www.forumtd.org](https://mail.ethicalsociety.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.forumtd.org)), and Barbara Kazdan will present “The Transition Network — Embracing Change After 50,” about an inclusive community that offers professional women new connections, resources, and opportunities ([http://www.the](https://mail.ethicalsociety.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.thetransitionnetwork.org)transitionnetwork.org). Please bring a sandwich  — to eat or cut in two to share — and a drink if you wish. Salad and dessert will be provided. Contact: Marty Brockway ([ewbrocs@rcn.com](mailto:ewbrocs@rcn.com)).

**Saturday, November 2**

**Community Auction, 6pm. Our annual Auction—An Evening in the Hive—is a fun night out full of friends, good food, and laughter. The auction is the opportunity to end up your year with gifts, exciting outings and events, and scrumptious dinners and goodies. Registration fee is $25. Those twenty-five dollars include mouth-watering finger foods a la Chefs Cayo and Christine, wine and other beverages, the funniest, wackiest live auction around, plus the chance to bid on (and win) the exclusive silent auction items. Child care plus dinner for the kids (pasta bar) is available for $15 ($30 per family) with preregistration.**

**Monday, November 4**

**Valuing Differences Discussion Group, 7:30 – 9:00 pm** (First Mondays) Facilitator:  Barbara Walker For years, WES members have expressed a desire to become more racially and culturally diverse. And, at the same time, becoming more diverse would require us to change the comfortable familiarity of the WES we are used to. The primary purpose of this workshop is to explore cultural differences and learn how those differences may impact us. We will have "safe" conversations with one another, and ask ourselves a series of questions such as Who are we?  What are the essential elements of other cultures?  Is race a culture?  What can we learn about dealing with differences?

**Wednesday, November 6**

**Flourish! Class -- What We Believe, 7-9pm.**What does it mean to live a life with the particular “big ideas” front and center?  The founding members of Ethical Culture developed a philosophy of life, but with no clear path for how to achieve it.  In this session, we’ll take the “big ideas” of Ethical Culture and, by grappling with anchoring questions, discover a path to an ethical way of living and the creation of an ethical culture.  Instructors:  Marty Kaufman and Mary Herman, Leader for Congregational Life

**Saturday, November 9**

**Young@WES Potluck, 5-9pm, home of Natalie and Justin Bend.**Young adults at WES are warmly invited to join for a social gathering and a conversation about what it's like to be young in Ethical Culture--with special guest Liz Collier, who is working with the American Ethical Union on young adult outreach! Please contact Natalie Bend, [natalienichole@gmail.com](mailto:natalienichole@gmail.com) or 847-997-2325 for location information.

**Saturday, November 9**

**Luther Place Volunteering, 6:45—8:00 pm**(monthly, 2nd Saturday)

WES has provides dinner one night a month at Luther Place Night Shelter, a transitional facility providing food, shelter and supportive case management for up to 30 women. Volunteers arrive at Luther Place by 6:45pm to serve the meal at 7:00pm. Once the meal is served, the volunteers clean up, pack up any extra food, and depart between 8:15 pm and 8:30 pm. This is a very safe experience with the homeless community, fulfilling a clear and vital need, and often children accompany their parents. Typically two families work together to cook, deliver and serve the meal.  Contact Naomi Goldstein, [ncg1@aol.com](mailto:ncg1@aol.com) to volunteer.

**Sunday, November 10**

**WES Book Group, "The Quiet American," by Graham Greene, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm.** This popular book group meets on the second Sunday of each month to discuss an exciting list of books, with a nice balance between fiction and non-fiction.

**Sunday, November 10**

**Membership Meeting, 5:30-9pm.**Please join your fellow members as we gather together as a community. At WES we value each member's unique contribution to the discussion, and will miss you if you cannot attend.  Come and be a part of our future as we roll up our sleeves to brainstorm, review our accomplishments, and discuss plans for working together to create a more just and loving world for all.  We hope to see as many of us as possible! Please call or email Peggy Goetz at 202-882-6650 x14 or [peggyg@ethicalsociety.org](mailto:peggyg@ethicalsociety.org) by November 3 to request child care during the meeting (the potluck dinner is multigen). RSVP for dinner and the meeting: [christinep@ethicalsociety.org](mailto:christinep@ethicalsociety.org). Please bring your favorite dish to share (enough for about 8) and your own dishes to reduce the work for our wonderful Green Team! Agenda and accompanying materials will be sent 10 days before the meeting, on November 1. To submit an agenda item or request that WES take an official stand on an ethical issue, please contact me directly.  See you at the meeting!

**Monday, November 11**

**Energy Crisis Discussion Group, Second Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm**Facilitator: Richard ComSmith. The world is at the end of cheap energy. The price of oil will increase as the cost of production of oil increases and the volume of production of oil declines. This will be followed by similar results for coal and natural gas. How will we get energy to maintain our civilization?  The class will be an opportunity to share our knowledge about energy as it relates to the energy crisis and the transition we are facing as individuals, as a community, as a country, and as citizens of the world.

**Thursday, November 14**

**Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:15pm, WES Library.**All members are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees. Agendas and relevant materials for each meeting can be found on the WES website in the Member Access section: <http://www.ethicalsociety.org/article/120/about-wes/member-access>.

**Sunday, November 17**

**Biology Book Group, 12:45 – 2:15 pm**On the third Sunday of every month there’s a lively buzz in the WES library as members and friends gather for the Biology Book Group, facilitated by Barbara Searle.  They meet on the third Sunday, 12:45 pm in the Library.  The discussion will center around  "The Brain That Changes Itself," by Norman Boidge.  For more information contact Barbara Searle:  [bsearle70@msn.com](mailto:bsearle70@msn.com).

**Sunday, November 17**

**Montgomery West Neighborhood Potluck, 5:30 pm.**  Includes those members and Friends of WES from the following zip codes:  20814, 20832, 2085\*, 2087\*, 2090\* **CONTACT INFO**

**Wednesday, November 20**

**Flourish! Class -- It’s Your Choice, 7-9pm**

What’s the fundamental choice out of which all other choices flow? Felix Adler based the founding of Ethical Culture on the answer to that question. He said, “The vice that underlies all vices is that people hold each other cheaply, and worse, that in our inner most being, we hold ourselves cheaply as well.” Through dyads and discussions you’ll explore what role the most basic of choices plays in your life: Do you choose to attribute worth to yourself and others?  How does choosing to be a chooser shape the paths you take and the relationships you build? Instructors: Lynne Waymon and Mary Herman, Leader for Congregational Life 

**Saturday, November 23**

**Potlucks for 8 Dinner, 6pm.**Chili dinner at Donna Radner's Chevy Chase place. Reserve a spot with Paulette Lee at [plee1007@gmail.com](mailto:plee1007@gmail.com) or (301) 326-1756.

**Sunday, November 24**

**Stone Soup Sunday Celebration and Lunch, 11am.**Please join us for our special Stone Soup lunch! Details on page 3.

**Monday, December 2**

**Valuing Differences Discussion Group, 7:30 – 9:00 pm** (First Mondays) Facilitator:  Barbara Walker For years, WES members have expressed a desire to become more racially and culturally diverse. And, at the same time, becoming more diverse would require us to change the comfortable familiarity of the WES we are used to. The primary purpose of this workshop is to explore cultural differences and learn how those differences may impact us. We will have "safe" conversations with one another, and ask ourselves a series of questions such as Who are we?  What are the essential elements of other cultures?  Is race a culture?  What can we learn about dealing with differences?

**Tuesday, December 3**

**Flourish! Class --Ethical Decision Making, 7-9pm, WES Library.**Ethical Culture is all about how we behave in the world, how we ACT…but wait a second.  How do we figure out what that should be? This class will explore classic and modern approaches to ethical decision making, using real-life examples and some toe-dipping into philosophical arguments, too.  Instructor: Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader