



Natural Connections

October 2006

Greetings!

What a glorious fall so far. The monarchs are still visiting us, the colors are beginning to change and it's beautiful beachcombing weather.

This month we think a lot about the trees because of their beautiful foliage. However, in addition to their beauty, we must also make plans for when the trees begin to drop their leaves. Consider joining us to rake and collect leaves for the compost pile.

We are also engaging in some fall cleaning, cleaning up years worth of waste and debris from our old closets, storage areas and basement spaces. However, we cannot just 'toss' these things out. We will sort materials to ensure hazardous items, scrap metal, usable things etc. are put in their proper place. I could use help sorting through our recyclables - let me know if you would like to help.

I hope you have heard the buzz about our upcoming Fair Earth Bazaar. This is quite new to Mercy Center and should be an incredibly fun event for all those who attend as well as increase awareness of fair trade! Please come and join us for a day or the whole weekend.

Sincerely,

Sherill Baldwin, Ecology Director

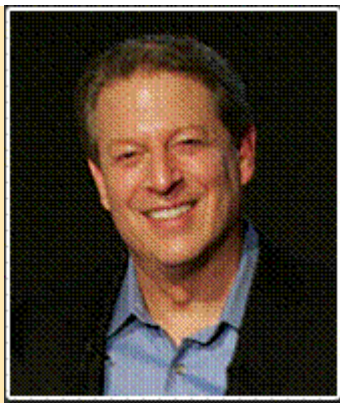
Upcoming Events & Activities

- **MOVIE NIGHT**
- **Michael Dowd Coming to Mercy Center**
- **Fair Earth Bazaar**
- **What is Fair Trade?**
- **Native Wisdom and the Medicine Wheel**
- **Garden Parties**

MOVIE NIGHT

An Inconvenient Truth A GLOBAL WARNING

Mercy Center
167 Neck Road
Madison, CT 06443
Tuesday, October 17
7 pm



AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on a last-ditch, all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change. In this eye-opening and poignant portrait of Gore and his "traveling global warming show," Gore also proves himself to be one of the most misunderstood characters in modern American public life. Here he is seen as never before in the media - funny, engaging, open and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our "planetary emergency" out to ordinary citizens before it's too late.

Please join us for this incredible movie followed by a discussion. Refreshments served.

RSVP for this event now!

Michael Dowd Coming to Mercy Center

The Great Story of Science & Spirit

Mercy Center
167 Neck Road
Madison, CT 06443
Thursday, Nov. 9
7 pm



The Great Story of cosmos, Earth, life, and humanity can breathe new life into humanity's most deeply held sacred stories. It can also heal the rift between science and religion and between different religions. Traditional sacred stories inspire billions of people the world over, yet they also present a challenge because each can be interpreted as competing with the others in the arena of truth. The Great Story provides the context for all other great stories and offers a framework for interpreting traditional religious stories cosmologically and the discoveries of science which can free these narratives to speak to our hearts and minds in a fresh way. Discoveries in the full range of sciences provide the raw elements of a story — for many versions of a story — but meaning and coherence emerge only as we step up to the task of creating an authentic relationship with those story elements. In a lively, engaging presentation, Michael will introduce this new, inclusive, and inspiring perspective and show how the Great Story bridges a rich diversity of religious and secular perspectives.

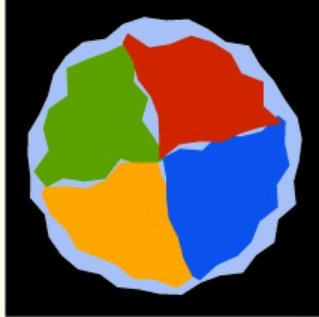
Rev. Michael Dowd, a gifted teacher, preacher, and evolutionary theologian, is the author of the 1991 book *EarthSpirit: A Handbook for Nurturing an Ecological Christianity*, which was inspired by the writings of cultural historian Thomas Berry, physicist Brian Swimme, and deep ecologist Joanna Macy.

Fair Earth Bazaar

Join us at Mercy
Center to support
Fair Trade!

Friday - Sunday
Nov. 10 12 - 7 pm
Nov. 11 9 am - 7 pm
Nov. 12 11 am - 3 pm

FAIR EARTH



BAZAAR

Featuring unique, beautiful and reasonably priced jewelry, clothing, home goods, chocolates and more. Handcrafted by artisans in developing countries, all items will be certified as Fair Trade, guaranteeing that workers enjoy fair wages and humane working conditions. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to find the perfect holiday gifts for family, friends -- and yourself!

Music, workshops, tastings, walks and more!

[Click Here to See Entertainment Schedule](#)

What is Fair Trade?

Increasing globalization is increasing income inequalities, job losses and environmental damage!

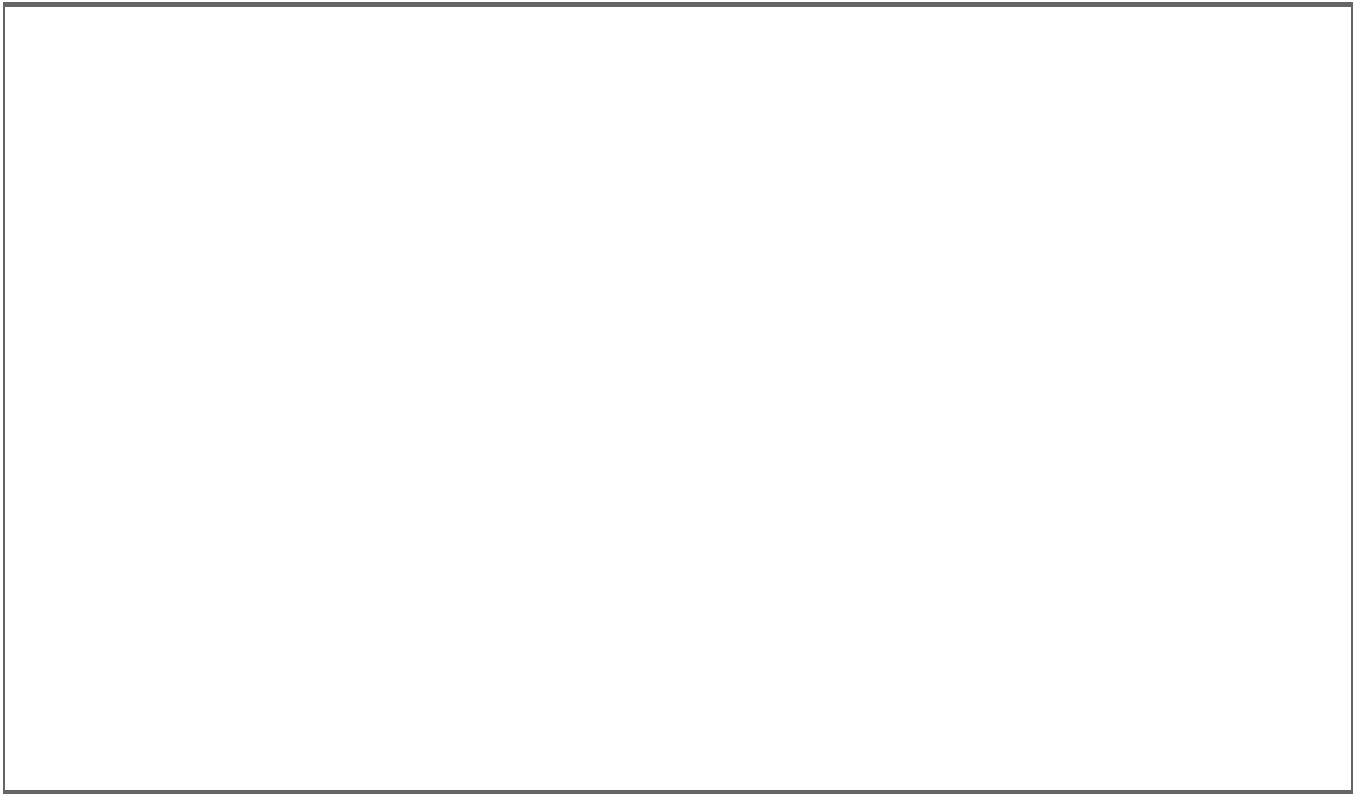
From Fair Trade Federation:

The idea of 'fair trade' means that trading partnerships are based on reciprocal benefits and mutual respect; that prices paid to producers reflect the work they do; that workers have the right to organize; that national health, safety, and wage laws are enforced; and that products are environmentally sustainable and conserve natural resources.

In the U.S., fair trade products are mostly craft items such as home accessories, jewelry, textiles and ceramics. Fairly traded coffee, tea and chocolates are also available. Craft items can play an important cultural role in the society in which they're produced. Clothing, utensils, bowls, baskets, and ritual items are windows into the heart of a culture. As we embrace becoming citizens of the world, our appreciation for cultures other than our own is magnified.

Fairly traded crafts will not cost more than other goods. With fair traded items, the middle-people are by-passed, so as consumers, we are working more directly with producers. This cuts in costs bring a greater return to producers.

[Learn more about fair trade at the Fair Trade Federation website.](#)



Native Wisdom and the Medicine Wheel

with Lilyan Fraher,
RSM

Mercy Center
167 Neck Road
Madison, CT 06443
Tuesday, November 14th
9:30 am - 3 pm



Using Native American concepts of the Medicine Wheel as your guide, spend a day to reflect on our connections to Mother Earth and our relationships to all of creation - ever mindful of the need to "walk in balance." The day will include input and discussion as well as time for individual reflection and quiet.

Register for this event now!

Garden Parties

Ecology Volunteer
Opportunities

167 Neck Rd., Madison,
CT



Please join me for one of our regularly scheduled Garden Parties to slow down, connect to Mercy Center's yard and help us weed, mulch and prepare plants for a winter's rest.

Garden Parties are scheduled every other Wednesday and Thursday from 1:30 - 4 pm. No need to call ahead - meet at the Ecology Center (Emmanuel House, door with the Earth flag) at 1:30pm.

Upcoming Garden Parties:

Wednesdays:

Oct. 25 1:30 - 4 pm

Nov. 8 1:30 - 4 pm

Nov. 22 1:30- 4 pm

Thursdays:

Oct. 19 1:30 - 4 pm

Nov. 2 1:30 - 4 pm

Nov. 16 1:30- 4 pm

We'll meet rain or shine. If the weather is bad, we'll work in the greenhouse!

We need your help on other eco- projects:

- Electronics - need help determining what works and what is broken for reuse or recycling
- Leaf raking - for the compost pile!
- Reuse & Recycling Shed - Need help coordinating the shed into a recycling depot to help us dispose of different materials properly
- Weatherize the greenhouse - help caulk, prevent mice visits, lay pea stone and prepare for winter

Contact Sherill about volunteering!

Free Magazines

In an effort to clear out some space in the Ecology Center for new books and magazines, we have many different magazine titles that we're giving away. If you would like to see what we have, please stop by during regular hours or email me when you'll be visiting.

Ecology Center Hours

ECOLOGY CENTER HOURS
(In Emmanuel House)

Tuesdays 2 - 4:30pm.

Come by and browse through our books, videos or magazines!

ECOLOGY CENTER WISH LIST

Books - on nature, environment, ecology, eco- spirituality
Blenders!
Paper shredder

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Web:
<http://www.mercybythesea.org>

Mercy Center is a conference and retreat center for human development. The Ecology Program is supported with funds from the Mercy Northeast Community, Mercy Action and ministry funds from Mercy RI and Mercy VT.