



SIMPLY NEWS

Sharing Information, Joy and Thoughtfulness
A Publication of Simply Living

A NOTE TO SIMPLY LIVING
FROM MARILYN

Dear Friends,

Recently my husband and I attended the memorial service for Warren Stetzel, a man whose entire life was dedicated to mindful living. The service was held in a Friends Meeting House on the campus of Olney School where “Teacher Warren” had been such a powerful presence in the lives of students. The service revolved around silence and “hearing others into speech”.

As those present spoke, the stories detailed a remarkable human being. Warren was thoughtful and intentional about choices. He realized that even in a world given over to haste and frenetic violence, evolution favors the timid, the careful, those who are considerate enough of creation to abide by the proportions and scale of the world. Yet at the same time, Warren was not the sort of fellow who waited passively for change. He actively and creatively pursued justice and developed communities that could support personal and social progress.

As I step aside as Director of Simply Living, I am reminded of

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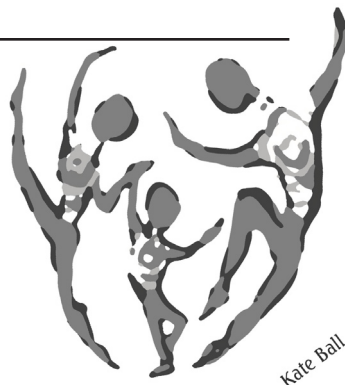
Join the
Celebrating and Honoring of
Marilyn Welker as she steps
down as Executive Director of
Simply Living!

A time of heart filled reflecting,
grateful acknowledging,
joyful sharing

Thursday, June 30th
5-8 pm

Whetstone Shelterhouse
Whetstone Park of Roses
3901 N. High St.

5-8 pm
Potluck- what else could it be?
(If a dessert-please consider
featuring chocolate!)



A LETTER FROM
OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

**Dear Simply Living Members
and Friends,**

As I bring my mind into the NOW to type these words it is an honor to do so in the role of President of Simply Living (SL).

In 2003, I came to Simply Living searching for knowledge and grounding into a more simple way of being and living. My journey into our shared vision of “creating a more compassionate and sustainable world” has been both mystical and practical—mystical with each “ah” moment experienced within the various discussion courses and practical in ways in which I apply what I learn, the process always continuing to create more joy for me.

Even now, with the growing edge I have felt as President—along with the Board, Co-Creators and Members—I continue to hold a loving space for the change occurring in Simply Living. First and foremost and most present in my mind is the resignation of our founding visionary, our director, Marilyn Welker. We thank you, Marilyn, and bow Namaste to you eternally for your willingness to create loving spaces in so many ways--ways

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Simply Living’s Vision: Creating a compassionate and sustainable world through personal, community and cultural transformation.

www.simplyliving.org

Note from Marilyn

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Warren's example because it is so central to Simply Living's commitment to mindful living. As an organization we also travel the path that incorporates personal growth and social innovation. Like Warren, we seek to live conscious, intentional, and care-full lives. Yet at the same time, over these 18 years I have seen that when our community needs its citizens to support sustainable initiatives and policies, Simply Living members show up. We are an organization that prizes social innovation and initiates approaches to create communities that are more local, more compassionate, and more resilient in their agility and adaptability.

Simply Living is 18 years old. It is old enough to vote for earth-friendly candidates, to have a car but choose a bike, to value the school of experience that is much more than higher education and the pursuit of financial gain. I remember our first annual meeting held in February 1993 and attended by a good number of you. In that fledgling stage, we confirmed our commitment to live more gently and joyfully with each other. We knew that living well involved laughing and having fun, sharing food often, and most significantly, inviting beauty to be part of our tables. We knew that in this fellowship of support and humble regard, Mother Earth would also be happy.

Letter from the Board President

Continued....

we have been able to learn, lead and bond with each other and our true values.

During her tenure Marilyn sponsored several initiatives, including: Earth Institute Courses, Your Money or Your Life, Agent of Change, Transition Central Ohio, WCRS-FM and Support Our Local Economy. Marilyn also assisted with the development of numerous sustainable community groups, such as Compassionate Communication of Central Ohio, Local Matters, and Green Columbus.

Please join us for a gathering honoring Marilyn. Details for this special gathering are included in this mailing.

Looking toward the future, the board would like to take our time and carefully select a new director who is poised to meet the needs of SL's future. We have decided to

I reaffirm what this kind of sharing requires and provides -- the gift of freedom. This is not the freedom found in the agreeable and the comfortable. It is not the freedom of ever-growing market alternatives that confound many into thinking that real choice is found on shelves. Rather it is the freedom that comes from working hard on the project of living, making steps, suffering setbacks, and finding ways to squeeze into the seemingly shrinking space of our days precious moments of true delight and care.

We capture this freedom in stories that feed our souls. Recently one of our members, Karyn Deibel, sold her car. She had come to the conclusion that selling it was no big deal. She could buy another one if needed. What was more important was how deeply she had been affected by the tragedies of the Japanese people and islands. She had felt more courageous after talking with five other women about the Gulf Oil disaster in an Earth Institute mini-discussion course. Since selling her car she feels more freedom, not less, because of her decision.



Members enjoy the potluck at the Annual Meeting.

We work to create a sustainable planet, and in this work we sustain each other. I, like so many of you, am motivated by our children who will inherit the world we create. We are mindful in our instruction with them and in how much they in turn instruct us. Our year-and-a-half-old granddaughter reminds us of what it means to live with full-heartedness for what we love. She greets everyone with a backward hand wave, tilt of her head, irresistible smile, and "Heh-wo". And as anyone who attended last year's *A Gift to Be Simple* will remember, our children stole the program, reminding us why we do what we do and how much it matters.

I have been privileged and honored to serve as Simply Living's director for these past nine years. We move forward sharing this sacred trust -- our love for our planet home; our love for those creatures in our ever enlarging circle of care; and our love for the creative force out of which the world is made anew. In this trust we learn together, we discuss our presents and our futures, we confer about possibilities, and we listen so that we hear each other and our planet into life-giving speech.

--Marilyn Welker

postpone this search for a few months while we engage in some strategic visioning and planning with our Co-Creator group. We are looking forward to creating opportunities to engage all of our members in seeking input about SL's future.

For the next several months, we will be operating under very limited staff. Several board members and volunteers will share the Interim Director responsibilities in the short-term. Please be patient with us as we thoughtfully make this transition.

--Randall Loop, Board President

Dear Friends,

A Reminder Now is the time to join or renew your Simply Living membership! Many thanks to all who have joined or renewed *and* sent additional financial support. Our membership drive happens just once a year--your prompt response means lower administrative costs.

Please contribute.... Our work is possible only because of people power and support!

Member Dale Sparlin recently sent us this note:

Dear SL Friends,

I have moved to Burlington, Vermont, where wonderful Earth practices and awareness are found. It reminds me of how courageous and significant a force you are in Central Ohio!

And Bob Olfenbuttel, another SL member who has just moved to Maine this week wrote:

I will continue to be a member of Simply Living. I believe in its mission, I believe in its heart. And, by continuing to be a member, I'll be able to keep abreast of what is happening here that I might, in a way I can't foresee at the moment, bring ideas to my new community.



Members Arcadia Davies and Aja Peltomaa enjoy a moment together at the Annual Meeting.

With membership you enjoy--

- Opportunities for learning with 700+ like-minded people
- Free membership events & programs
- Reduced rates on select programs and workshops
- Subscription to our newsletter *Simply News*
- Access to weekly emails announcing Simply Living and community events
- Discounts at participating local businesses, including KEMBA Financial Credit Union, Kris Keller Chiropractic, Randal Loop, LMT, and Judy Fasone, Trager Practitioner.
- Supporting our mission: *"SL of Central Ohio supports individuals, families and organizations in creating a more compassionate and sustainable culture. We provide opportunities for learning, leading, and community building that promote personal responsibility, civic engagement, and informed action."*



Here's how to join:

- With your credit card or PayPal account at <http://simplyliving.org/membership>: Choose the "Join Us" tab on the web site, print the membership information card, and mail it with your check to Simply Living, P. O. Box 82273, Columbus, OH 43202, or
- Send check made payable to Simply Living.

Memberships are \$35/individual, \$50/household, \$20/ senior (age 60+) or full-time student. Please make an additional donation if you can to support the mission of creating a compassionate and sustainable world. Also visit our website to see a detailed listing of member benefits.

Help us reach our goal of 600 members, and thank you for making an investment in the future of Simply Living!

Simply Living

2929 N High St., Suite A
PO Box 82273
Columbus OH 43202

Return Service Requested

Dated Material

Please Expedite!

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SIMPLY LIVING MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please consider making your secure credit card payment online at simplyliving.org/membership.

Or complete this form and return it to:
Simply Living · PO Box 82273 · Columbus OH 43202

- Check (made payable to Simply Living)
- Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Membership Levels

- \$35 - Individual
- \$50 - Household
- \$20 - Senior (Age 60+) or Full-time Student

Additional Donation

- \$15 \$100
- \$25 \$200
- \$50 \$300
- \$ _____