



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Memo from the Board 1

Non-discrimination,  
Civil Rights and Mission 1

Desk of Sue  
Hendrikson 2

Tips for Simplifying your  
Life 3

Invitation: Dreamland  
Holiday Gathering  
Registration 3

Calendar 4



*Mission Statement for Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education HCE offers opportunities for:*

- Learning in a social setting,
- Sharing what we learn, and
- Caring to make a difference in our homes, communities, and the world.



### DISPATCH ASSEMBLY

Dispatch assembly for the **February** issues will be the **Merry Mates**. Contact the UW-Extension Office at 715-395-1363 before **January 25th** to arrange the date and time for assembly.

Contact:  
Cheryl Shockley at  
the UW-Extension Office at  
715-395-1363 or  
cheryl.shockley@ces.uwex.edu

### DISPATCH ARTICLES DUE DATE

Dispatch articles are **due the 15th** of the month. When emailing your articles, please send them as an attachment.

Please mail or email them to:

Cheryl Shockley,  
UW-Extension Editor  
1313 Belknap St., Room 107  
Superior, WI 54880  
715-395-1363 or  
cheryl.shockley@ces.uwex.edu

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## Memo from the Board:

### DO'S AND DON'TS FOR A GREEN HOLIDAY

- Stay at home and make gifts, or shop locally—saves gas and all that store packaging!
- Make your own cards from old cards, recycled paper or send holiday email—save a tree!
- Recycle all that Holiday trash when possible; Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Holidays than any other time of the year!
- Consider balancing gift-giving with a night where each family member gives away some of their own belongings. Outgrown boots, hats, mittens, coats and scarves are especially appreciated this time of year. Make sure the things you are giving will be appreciated by receivers.
- A donation of food to a local food shelf is always welcome. Avoid over-packaged goods
- Adopt a polar bear or other favorite animal. Defenders of Wildlife is actively involved in defense of wild creatures through lobbying and legal efforts, for instance.
- Remember the birds! Birds who have feeder seed available have a much better chance of surviving a cold winter. A gift of a feeder, waterer or seed is a great gift for any bird lover.
- Park stickers, ski or bus passes are always a good gift.
- When buying electronics, look for Energy Star certified items.
- Include your favorite charities/environmental groups on your gift list so folks can support the organizations you love.
- Buy your tree locally where pesticide use is minimal. Or better yet, cut your own. Contact your local Forestry Department or Wisconsin DNR for sites.

Wishing you peace, joy and a low-consuming,  
low-polluting happy holiday season,

Sue Hendrickson

*(Reprinted and edited by permission of author Jan Conley,  
Lake Nebagamon, Environmental Association for Great  
Lakes Education)*

## FROM THE DESK OF SUE HENDRICKSON

I am so full of gratitude today for all those who worked so hard to make our International event, A Taste of India, a success. The food from India Palace was a hit and there were many compliments about the the DVD about Kerala, the Spice lands of India. Such an interesting area, culturally and religiously, and they have the highest literacy rate in India, and a life-expectancy that rivals the US. (Such a contrast to the slums of Mumbai (Bombay) that moved me to write the poem below after Ron and I visited there). Thirty registrants ate heartily and then lined up to take home left-overs. Next stop, Iceland!



### Tears for Mumbai

Last night I cried for India...  
 Tears of sorrow for the little boy forced to take \$2 for his \$5 pack of postcards from a "savvy" traveler...  
 Tears of frustration for the refuse that "refuses" to go away—pushed from the sidewalk to the gutter, from the gutter to the drainage ditch where pipes from beneath the tenements drain and dampen, but don't wash away...  
 Tears of hopelessness for the scenes burned in my mind that I will carry forever...the hot mid-week night crowd bloated to spill off the walkways to fill the streets, the woman standing on a block-wide refuse heap trying to cover it with dirt from the roadway, dish panful ... the rusted tin roofs of cobbled-together shelters, each so close upon the next, one imagines running a footrace across them...

Tears of rage mixing with the hot water and soap of my shower, I howl at the utter enormity of the inequity the gods have dealt these people. No power on earth could raze the mile after mile of blasted, moldy tenements reaching up into the rank, sultry night with only a few bare lightbulbs to drive away the gloom...

Tears of shame at my own shallowness, my gross lack of knowledge, my petty prayers, my misdirected plenty...

I can still smell her musk borne on the salty morning breeze as we sail away on the roiling, gray ocean, and I know there is not enough water in all the seas of the world to wash away my pain...O ye of tender heart, stay away from India, For she will lure you with her stories of moguls and their minions, Of everlasting love and grand palaces, Of silks and spices and magic carpets, Of rubies and emeralds and gold...

How many hapless travelers have wandered here, happy in their illusions, smug in their contentment, confident in their accomplishments,

Only to have her reach inside and open a deep place somewhere near the heart, a great, gaping hole with ragged edges that will never heal...should never heal...

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Got hunters among your family and friends? Please remind them that venison can be taken to Hursh Meat Processing, 10083 E Oak Rd, Poplar, so it can be donated to area food shelves. Call 715-364-6855 for hours of operation.

Thanks to the members that have turned in their raffle tickets and money. Mine are taken care of too. Good to get that done before the year is out!

I found a trouble free way to cook squash...just wash it, prick with a fork all over and put in the crockpot over night or all day on low--stays moist, and easy to cut and remove seeds :)

A GIFT IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS: Buy someone a gift membership in HCE! I have special forms; if you are interested, call me (715-398-7213). Happy Holidays!

Submitted by, Sue Hendrickson

January 5th 1:30 Superior Public Library  
Program: Tips for Simplifying Your Life

Clearing clutter's chaos is for many of us overwhelming, frustrating, maddening and demoralizing. It doesn't have to be that way. Organizing is a skill and a skill can be learned. Come and learn techniques to make organizing a project simple, manageable, and attainable. Let's start out the NEW year with a NEW attitude, learning NEW techniques to simplify our lives. Join us January 5th, 1:30 at the Superior Public Library .

Submitted, Jo Mersnick

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**YOU ARE INVITED!!**

The Town and Country HCE Club has again arranged for a Holiday Gathering at Dreamland Supper Club on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. Pre-registration is necessary along with a \$5.00 donation in advance which will qualify you for a chance on several prizes. There will be a chance to purchase additional chances for the prizes. We will also be collecting food items for a basket for a needy family so if you would like to bring a donation of a non-perishable food you will receive an extra ticket for the drawings. Monies collected will be used to purchase gift cards for needy senior citizens. Dinner will be on your won (wonderful food), and we will again have some great entertainment. Members as well as spouses and guests are invited for an evening of fun. Please have your registrations in by Tuesday, December 8th. Fill in the form below and make checks out to Town and Country HCE. If anyone knows of a needy senior citizen, please let Dianne Greely know that evening or by calling her evenings at 715-398-6560.

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**HOLIDAY GATHERING AT DREAMLAND**

NAME (S): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$5.00 PER PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**

Town and Country HCE  
C/O Dianne Greely  
6934 E Cloverdale Drive  
South Range, WI 54874

**Deadline is December 8th.** Please allow plenty for mailing time as Dispatch is running late, please call Dianne at the above number to let her know how many are coming. Forms and checks can still be mailed, even if they will arrive after the 8th.



TAPE

We're on the web! Be sure to visit the Douglas County Family Living website at: <http://douglas.nwex.edu/tlp/> and click on Douglas County Home and Community Education (HCE), then click on the Dispatch Newsletter link.

Page 8