



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Affirming and promoting the inherent dignity and worth of every person since 1954

FEBRUARY 2009

OUR SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE – all 10:00 a.m.

Followed by Coffee Time and then *Enrichment Hour* – small group programs 11:45 – 12:45)

FEBRUARY 1

CIVIL MARRIAGE IS A CIVIL RIGHT

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, *Co-minister*, Erin Washburn, *Worship Associate*, and the PBUUC Choir
With Lisa Polyak and Gita Deane, *guest speakers*

Our faith asks us to respect the "inherent worth and dignity of every person" and seek "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." But what do these words ask of us in the real world? Rev. Hubbell talks with Lisa Polyak and Gita Deane about why they have devoted much of their lives to extending the protections of marriage to same gender couples and asks what their struggle might mean for us. Lisa and Gita are the named plaintiffs in the failed Maryland lawsuit seeking the right for same sex couples to have civil marriages. They have been together nearly thirty years now and have two children. Today, we take a special collection for the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, who have made education and legislative action for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people one of their top priorities.

FEBRUARY 8

HISTORY TALKS

Rev. John Parker Manwell, *Co-minister*, and Don Henderson, *Worship Associate*
(Together Time)

We started a conversation last week about our history as a congregation. We asked ourselves, what were the good times over the years and what were the hard ones? What can we learn from our history that will help us as we welcome new ministry?

FEBRUARY 15

IT JUST DOESN'T STOP

Rev. Scott McNeill, *Intern Minister* of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, VA,
and Shantida, *Worship Associate*

Life would be easy to manage if it, like our favorite sitcom, were paused every 30 to 60 minutes. Love would be even easier because problems could be solved through commercials. Yet it doesn't pause. This week we grapple with a life that keeps rolling even as we beg for a pause

FEBRUARY 22

WHEN THE CHALICE BURNS LOW

Rev. John Parker Manwell, *Co-minister*, Tosha O'Neal, *Worship Associate*, and the PBUUC Choir
(Together Time)

Often we live on the edge of burn-out. Torn between the demands of work, family, church and so much else, we long for a more centered life. How can we keep our inner chalice alight? How can we nurture a spiritual foundation for our engagement in the world around us? Let us reflect together.

Monthly Ministers' Article *Roots and Wings*

By the time you read this, we will be at the half way mark in this interim year. So much to do, so little time. Yet, "present moment, wonderful moment." We love being here with you – the music, the dance, the food, the people, the warmth, and perhaps most importantly, the serious struggle among you to be the people our individual and collective faiths call us to be.

Aside from worship, the two tasks we have scheduled with all of you this year in preparation for the new settled ministry are the history workshop after church on Sunday, February 1 (discussed elsewhere) and the day-long covenant workshop, scheduled for Saturday, March 14.



Many of you may not have heard about congregational covenants before.

Congregational covenants are increasingly part of congregational fundamentals, like mission and vision statements and strategic plans. Covenants are commitments members

of congregations voluntarily make as a congregation about how they want to be together on their mutual religious journeys. Sometimes thorny issues arise in churches, ones that can be eased if some basic guidelines are in place before tensions escalate so that healing is difficult.

Creating a covenant will only work, however, if everyone is in the conversation. Your task is to build a covenant that you are all proud of, one that you can live with, one you can commit and recommit to when those times come when you fail. It is not our covenant. It is yours--one that will continue long after we are gone.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 14, 10 am to 4 pm. Come join your friends in a conversation about what really matters.

- Rev. Phyllis Hubbell

Board Chair Notes: *Congregational Town Meeting*

The Board continues to be busy ensuring that the work of the church continues without interruption. Most of our deliberations have to do with procedural matters with a view toward making work easier for future Boards.



Please set aside Enrichment Hour on Sunday, March 1, to attend the mid-year Congregational Town Hall Meeting. A soup lunch will be served immediately after the Morning Service, followed by brief presentations of our mission

and vision statements, as well as our proposal to become a Green Sanctuary. We will then move on to small-group discussions of the Budget, of ways to become more welcoming as a congregation and ways to help newcomers become integrated into the life of the church. No voting will take place at this time; it is not an official Congregational Meeting. However, I hope for a large turnout and active participation as we continue preparing ourselves to welcome a new minister.

As always, feel free to talk with me or other Board members if you ever have concerns you would like to discuss.

- Kate Brett, Board Chair

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE ACCEPTING GRANT REQUESTS

The Endowment Committee is accepting applications for a single \$500 grant from the Paint Branch Legacy Fund. Although the Legacy Fund has dipped below the \$100,000 threshold, the Committee feels it is important to continue the grant process. If you or your group wishes to apply for the single \$500 grant, contact **Liz Citrin** at Elizabeth.a.citrin@nasa.gov or **Kevin Miller** at Kevin.N.Miller@nasa.gov to get the required application forms.

- Ken Montville

Board Treasurer Report: Mid-year Budget Update

This month I will give you an update on the budget through December 31. Suffice it to say, we are doing very well to date, but not quite as well as last year. We knew from the start that this year's budget is tight. We even show a budgeted deficit for the full year. Nevertheless, I am hopeful that we will at least break even for the year.

Income to date is \$225,484; expenses to date \$198,983; surplus to date \$26,501, not unusual for this time of year. The income side of the budget includes Canvass Pledges, Rent from Montessori and other renters, the Auction, Sales of Scrip, Interest, Plate and other sources. The largest item, of course, is Pledges and Donations. Canvass Pledges totaled \$261,252, which seems to be coming in right on target. Many people pay their pledges before the end of the calendar year to get the tax deduction. As of December 31 we received \$132,139 in pledges. Eleven pledges have been paid in full; twelve pledge units have not paid anything to date. However, many of our committees and groups do not seriously spend their budgeted funds until after the holidays. Thus, I am cautiously optimistic; I do not think we will end the year with a huge surplus. Last year at this time we had an even larger surplus of \$38,503 and we ended the year with a surplus of \$7,628.

I want to put in a plug for the annual tax statements that were sent out last month. In the past, with several people doing entry into a very difficult data base, statements were often incorrect. Many of you simply ignored them. This year we have put a great deal of effort into getting them accurate. **Please help us by letting us know if your records differ from ours.** That way we can find errors and figure out how to keep them from recurring. Thanks.

In addition to Canvass Pledges we have received \$500 in New Pledges and \$4,945 in Last Year's Pledges (paid late). If you are a new member and have not signed a pledge card, please do so, sending it by note or email to ellencotts@comcast.net. New Pledges are from the present to the end of June. It will help us keep things straight if we know what you plan to give during the balance of this fiscal year.

We have also received \$7,871 in Other Donations. This designation is intended to include checks from visitors, but the amount is too high for that. A good deal has come from regular Paint Branchers who did not pledge; more about that next month.

Other Income includes the myriad of events held during the year such as The Holiday Dinner, Ethnic Dinners, Concerts, the Summer RE program, Commissions on Art, etc. For these events we have one account for each, which includes both income and expense. Most of these events earn a small profit. Occasionally there is a loss. But overall, we expect to earn about \$8,000 from these events this year.

On the Expense side, we budgeted \$416,361 for the full year and to date we have spent \$198,983. The largest expense is Personnel. Other expenses include Church Activities (Canvass, Guest Speakers etc.), Administration, Debt Service, Buildings and Grounds (BAG), RE, Music and Arts, Social Action, Denominational Affairs, Search Committee, Public Relations, and Contingency. Suffice it to say that one account is a mere \$6 over budget and the rest are under budget. This shows the high level of cooperation and care that our staff and committees are providing in a tight budget year. I appreciate that each group is using their allotted funds wisely.

This space is too limited to go into detail about expenses of individual categories. If anyone is interested in costs, I will be happy to provide more detailed information. Just call me to let me know what you need.

Paint Branch is a wonderful community that puts its money where its heart is. Each of us is blessed to be a part of this church. Keep the faith!

- Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer



Ministerial Search Committee

AT THE FAR TURN AND HEADED FOR THE STRETCH...

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has been very busy for the last month considering the many candidates who have expressed interest in settlement at Paint Branch. By the time you read this article, we will have phone-interviewed everyone on our list and finalized our nominees for pre-candidating weekends.

Our congregation apparently is considered to be an excellent settlement opportunity and, as a result, we have had quite a wide variety of applicants from all parts of the country. I personally enjoyed speaking with them and asking them what they thought of our congregation and what they could bring to it.

We now move to the next step: the pre-candidating weekend. For this process, we invite each of our nominees to visit Paint Branch for a separate intensive weekend of face-to-face meetings and interviews. We start the weekend Friday night with a relaxed dinner together with the candidate so everyone can get to know each other.

On Saturday, we spend a number of hours intensely interviewing the candidate with a more detailed series of questions based on the areas we explored in our phone interviews. The candidate will likewise have a chance to question us about anything he/she wants to know about Paint Branch. We break for an informal lunch with the candidate before bringing him/her on a tour of our church facilities and a tour of the community. Saturday night, though, is reserved for the candidate to take some down time and put the finishing touches on his/her sermon.

On Sunday we all travel to a neutral pulpit (another church) to see and hear the candidate present a worship service including the sermon. After the service we again share lunch with the candidate, giving all parties a chance to discuss any final questions or comments.

Once we send the candidate on his/her way home, we will re-convene the Committee to exchange first reactions. No final votes will be taken on any candidate until the last pre-candidating weekend is finished. Even then, we will take a day or two to decompress and think about our choices.

These weekends are the main opportunities for Search Committee members to consider what the candidate's proposed ministry would be like. The candidate also has a chance to find out what it might be like to minister to our congregation. Together, we hope to find out if the pre-candidate and the Committee have the same strong conviction that we are the best fit for each other. We will settle for nothing less.



The eight members of the MSC are: **Bettie Young** (co-chair), **Michael Léger** (co-chair), **John Bartoli**, **Beth Lyons**, **Rene McDonald**, **Muriel Morisey**, **Tricia Most**, and **Marge Owens**. Please don't hesitate to stop one of us and ask about the search. Look for the big ID tags with the MSC logo.

- John Bartoli

FEBRUARY FESTIVE FRIDAY ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Robyn McCoy and I miss Festive Friday and are bringing it back for one night of fun on Friday, February 20 from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Never heard of Festive Friday? We get together for pizza, beverages, drinks, desserts, games, and conversation in the Meeting House. It's an informal evening of fun and relaxation with fellow church folk. Robyn and Kelly bring in the pizza and drinks, and anyone who wishes is invited to bring appetizers, salads, or desserts to share – or just bring you. Don't forget your favorite board game! Cost: Adults - \$5, Children – you decide, Drinks \$0.50 - \$2. Call Kelley at 301-937-7375 or kellywester@comcast.net, or Robyn McCoy (301-982-0195 or mdgypsy@verizon.net).

- Kelly Wester

FIND PAINT BRANCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

If you have a Facebook account and would like to join other Paint Branchers on this website, just log on and search for "Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church" or check out <http://groups.to/pbuuc/>

(Editor's note – This group is not an officially recognized means of communication of PBUUC. The staff and church leadership of PBUUC cannot be held responsible for any portion of communication posted on this private group website. This Facebook group exists only for entertainment purposes only)

Religious Exploration (RE) News

by Carla Miller, DRE

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the dignity of the individual, the importance of personal responsibility, and the essential interdependence of all people. Rev. Patricia Hoertdoerfer, The Parent Guide to Our Whole Lives

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

301-937-3666, x 2

dre@pbuuc.org

UPCOMING in RE

Friday, February 6

- 6:30 pm – Family night for Roots and Wings

Sunday, February 8

- Enrichment Hour – Roots & Wings Session

Monday, February 9

- 7 pm – RE Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 15

- Enrichment Hour – Roots & Wings Session

Saturday, March 7

- Rehearsal for Roots & Wings Ceremony

Sunday, March 8

- Roots & Wings Ceremony

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL): COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN RELIGIOUS CONTEXT

Why do we teach Sex Ed. in our Religious Exploration program?

You may well wonder why the OWL comprehensive human sexuality courses are such a valued part of our Religious Exploration program. Unitarian Universalist values are at the very heart of the three core program values of the OWL curriculum:

- **Respect** - to help children appreciate the worth and dignity of themselves and others, to treat others respectfully, and to be respectful of human differences
- **Relationship** - to help children develop interpersonal skills in communication and decision making, and to foster satisfying, respectful, and reciprocal relationships

- **Responsibility** - to help children practice self-care and to exercise fairness and responsibility to others in relationships

Our Whole Lives is an anti-bias curriculum, presenting diverse and inclusive images of body types, gender roles, sexual orientations and affirming all family and relationship configurations. Our Whole Lives also includes a parent component, affirming and supporting parents as their child's primary sexuality educators.

We are currently offering OWL at the junior and senior high school levels. The Religious Exploration Committee and I will consider offering the K/1 and Grades 4-6 classes in the near future. There are adult and young adult OWL classes as well.

If you have questions about Our Whole Lives, please speak to me or to any of our trained OWL teachers, **Tish Hall, Mike Stark, and Tina Van Pelt**. We'd be happy to share our understandings of this program and our observations of its value in children's lives.

THE INTERCONNECTED WEB: A SPECIAL SPRING UNIT FOR GRADES 1-8 CAN YOU HELP OUR CHILDREN MAKE THE CONNECTIONS?

This spring we're planning something special in RE, a Celebration of the Web of Life that will be our own PBUUC-creation! This is an opportunity to get out into our woods and creek, and to enjoy the beauty of springtime deepen our understanding and ability to live in right relationship to this amazing earth and to all living beings. **Penney Hughes**, RE Assistant, and I are leading planning, with the participation and leadership of volunteers from our congregation. If you are interested in leading an activity or lending a hand during this unit, please let us know!

(RE News continued on next page)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009-2010: CURRICULUM PLANNING TEAM FORMING

A Curriculum Planning Team, composed of parents, RE teachers or former teachers, and at least one RE Committee member representative, is forming to evaluate our current curriculum choices and program needs to consider our options, and to make recommendations for the next curricular cycle. This team will meet several times in March and April to create a new curriculum plan for the coming three-year cycle by early May. If you are a parent, RE teacher or former RE teacher, or an educator by profession, please consider participating and adding your voice to the process!

Contact me, to indicate interest in the Curriculum Planning Team, or prepare to say YES when I contact you for this short-term commitment. Thanks!

Carla Miller, Director of Religious Exploration

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Intergenerational Coffee House

Do you wonder who the teens are in the Youth Group? They would love to meet you during Enrichment Hour on February 15 in the Kelley Room. Please come for casual conversation and enjoy coffee, hot cider and munchies. For information contact **Penney Hughes** at 301-879-3056 or shechanges@verizon.net

Youth Group Lock In

The next Youth Group Lock-In will be February 7 and 8; the lock-in theme is IKEA. Please contact **Mike McMenamin** at Mikemcmenamin1@msn.com for additional information.



WOMEN'S RETREAT SAT., FEB. 28 - 8AM - 5PM



Planning is underway for PBUUC's 4th Annual Women's Retreat-in-Place! This all-day retreat offers three sessions of inspirational workshops as well as time to connect and network. Enjoy a home-cooked vegetarian breakfast and lunch. Take free time to walk in the woods

behind our beautiful sanctuary, write in your journal, draw in your sketchbook, work on a puzzle, knit/craft with others just be together.

Look for registration forms in the Lobby, in the church office, and on the PBUUC web site. The cost is a reasonable \$20 and includes two meals and childcare. **(Please note: we must know of your childcare needs by February 15).** Some workshops will include a small materials fee. "Scholarships" are available. The registration deadline is Sunday, February 15.

Retreat planners **Penney Hughes, Tish Hall** and **Julie Dahmer** will be gathering on Friday evening, February 27, for "hanging out time" and welcome anyone who is interested to join them. Food that evening will be "potluck snacks."

We welcome PBUUC women, their daughters, mothers, and friends, as well as women of area UU churches to spend a get-away day together in shared activity, fellowship, and fun.

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Are you new to Paint Branch UU Church or interested in deepening your relationship to the church by becoming a member? Mark your calendar for the next Path to Membership class, being held Saturday, March 4, 2009, from 12 to 5pm. This class is both informational and inspirational, giving individuals a chance to learn more about our church and each other. **Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, Rev. John Manwell** and Membership Chair **Tim Illig** will lead this retreat, a light lunch will be provided. The New Member Recognition Ceremony will be Sunday, March 5, 2009. Please RSVP to Tim at 410-707-6678 or tillig@comcast.net no later than Sunday, February 29, 2009.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News and Events

At its January 10 meeting, the Committee dealt with a variety of issues. Action was taken on a number of initiatives:

- A major committee focus during the next month will be supporting **Sharing Jerusalem's** monthly service and workshop, to be held at PBUUC on Sunday, February 22 (see article in the next column for more details on how to become involved).
- We will once again co-sponsor **the annual conference of Maryland United for Peace and Justice**, which will be held on Saturday, April 4, in Burtonsville, MD. The theme of the 2009 conference is "Peace Means Taking Care of Ourselves, Each Other and the Earth."
- A primary objective of our agenda for the **2009 Maryland General Assembly** will be passage of legislation to end the death penalty. For further information on letter writing and lobbying days to address this and other General Assembly issues, contact **Marge Owens** at 301-345-1572.
- The Committee will also support a national telephone call campaign to demand action to help end **the siege of Gaza** and proposed state legislation to prevent any further **federalization of the Maryland National Guard**.

To address the issue of hunger, volunteers are still needed to help with our participation in Community Café, a lunchtime program in Hyattsville. We are responsible for the Community Café on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Please call **Esther Nichols** at 301-864-2068 if you are interested in helping with this long-standing Paint Branch outreach activity.

Our special collection at Christmas Eve services netted almost \$1200 to help support our Warm Nights program, Community Café and Beacon House. The special collection for the Interfaith Fairness Coalition in January brought in \$731. The February collection will support UUs for Social Justice, and the March offering will be for the Housing Initiative Partnership.

The committee's next meeting will be on Saturday, February 7 at 10 am in the RE building. We have no set membership and all interested persons are welcome to join us. For more information, call January-February moderator **Ethelyn Bishop** at 301-604-2113

SHARING JERUSALEM PROGRAM ON GAZA

On Sunday, February 22, from 2 to 4:pm in the Meeting House, our Social Action Committee is pleased to host an interfaith program and opening worship service focused on Gaza, which is presented by the **Sharing Jerusalem** organization. Sharing Jerusalem is a grassroots interfaith campaign in the Washington DC area that has been conducting monthly programs in various houses of worship in support of a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that includes a Jerusalem that is "shared," both politically and religiously. The program will begin with an opening service led by a Jew, a Christian, and a Muslim, reflecting on how the tenets of their respective faiths and the situation in Gaza influence the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict. **David Chapman** will be the pianist for the opening service.

The Program will help us better understand the historical context of Gaza, the recent tragic outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and the fragile cease-fire that exists at the present time, what needs to change for both sides in the future as the struggle for peace continues, and what the American role has been in the past and should be in the future. Finally, we will discuss what actions each of us can take to help bring peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

We hope to attract Paint Branch people who are concerned about this continuing conflict. During a break in the program, Middle Eastern appetizers from the New Deal Café in Greenbelt will be served, giving us an opportunity to meet and talk with our visitors. Co-sponsoring this event is the Network of Spiritual Progressives MD chapter, which meets at PBUUC. Please contact **Nancy Boardman** at 301-982-3450 for more information.

Dedicated towards Inspiring Vitality (DIV) Team

UPDATED VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

The DIV team has listened to feedback on the draft PBUUC Vision and Mission Statements and has drafted new versions. Both statements are more concise, readable and able to be memorized. We believe all ideas expressed in the Mission/Vision workshop, enrichment hour activities and emails have been addressed.

The Mission Statement answers these questions:

- Who is PBUUC?
- What is our purpose?
- What do we do?
- Why do we exist?

The Vision Statement answers these questions:

- What are our dreams and aspirations?
- How do we see ourselves in 5 years?
- What will we be doing in 5 years that we are not doing now (or want to do better)?
- Can a strategic plan be built from our vision?
- Is the vision statement fairly specific?

Our timeline for congregational approval is:

February 1-20: Send feedback and suggested changes to **Tim Illig** at 410-707-6678 or tillig@comcast.net.

February 8 & 15: Enrichment hour discussion on latest drafts of Vision and Mission Statements.

Week of February 22: DIV team makes final changes to Vision and Mission Statements

February 25: DIV team presents final drafts of Vision and Mission Statements to the Board.

March 1: Congregational meeting to approve Vision and Mission Statements.

Our shared statements will guide us only if we have a shared sense of ownership in them. So, please participate in the process, send your comments to me, or participate in the enrichment hour discussions.



PBUUC Draft Mission Statement (version 2)

Grounded by our deep Unitarian Universalist roots, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church is a loving, diverse, liberal religious community. We live our Unitarian Universalist principles by:

- Warmly welcoming all who seek a community of connection,
- Creating meaningful worship and transformational life-span religious education,
- Sharing the joys and sorrows of our lives,
- Rejoicing in creative artistry,
- Living in harmony with the environment, and
- Responding to the needs of the community.

PBUUC Draft Vision Statement (version 2)

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church envisions being an inspiring force in the greater community. We will:

- Live and promote our Unitarian Universalist values,
- Unlock the creativity and strength of every spirit,
- Be a model of inclusiveness, human diversity, and right relations,
- Be leaders in promoting sustained social justice, and
- Live in an environmentally responsible way and encourage others to do the same.

- Tim Illig, DIV Chair

We Care Committee

The We Care Committee would like to send thoughts and good wishes to:

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Joann Alexander – who recently moved from the hospital to rehabilitation in Annapolis

Ann Bolt – who is home recovering from recent surgery

Emily Conover – who is home recovering from recent back surgery

Will Snyder -- for the recent loss of his mother

Forest Williams – who is recovering at the rehab center connected to the Washington Hospital Center after suffering a stroke.

The We Care Committee – **Jan Montville, Esther Nichols** and **Jeri Holloway**

***Diversity/Anti-Racism
Transformation Team (DARTT)
News & Events***

**KWANZAA VALUES
ANY TIME OF YEAR**

By Tricia Most

Unitarian Universalists worship together, not because we all necessarily agree to the exact same set of beliefs, but because we share a deep respect for each other's pursuit of meaning. Although we share neither similar ancestry nor early-life religious experiences, we unite in our covenant to encourage each others' spiritual development. Rather than adhering to rigid dogma, we find inspiration from an infinite number of sources. We value diverse music, customs, and worship practices that expand our understanding of life and our appreciation of each other. Together, we seek wholeness.

On the last Sunday of 2008, our worship service briefly considered a somewhat new holiday called Kwanzaa, developed in Los Angeles by **Dr. Maulena Karenga** in 1966 during the civil rights and black power movements. These movements tried to address segregation and discrimination in education, housing and employment opportunities for people of color. Dr. Karenga used Swahili, a language of East and Central Africa to name seven core principles that unite African traditions with American customs. He suggested that each of the seven Kwanzaa days between December 26 and January 1 should be a day to tell ancient and modern stories that illustrate one of the seven values represented by one of seven Kinara candles. Thus, Kwanzaa is intended to unite the past and present and to encourage a sense of wholeness for African American people.

When I first heard about the values of Kwanzaa I resonated with them immediately. The practice of honoring old and current examples of inspiring behaviors reinforces healthy philosophical ideas about social structure, political organization and economic fairness. The specific Kwanzaa principles are universal. **Keith Mayes**, assistant professor in the Department of African-American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota, says "The holiday represents the best of African-American culture, U.S. society, and humanity; [Kwanzaa is] unique, experimental, creative, improvisational, and put together from many parts."

During the past two years as I have deliberately engaged in conversations about race, I've become more aware of my need to become more aware. Part of my journey toward wholeness, my work to confront my own white privilege, is appreciating the experiences of others. The little I've learned about Kwanzaa points to this as a holiday about learning, appreciating, goal-setting and meaning-making.

The principles encourage *umoja* - unity (developing of a sense of belonging in our families and our communities), *kujichagulia* - self-determination (defining ourselves and our goals), *jima* - work and responsibility (connecting with each other in mutual endeavors that build and strengthen our community), *ujammaa* - economic cooperation (the reality of interdependence), *nia* - purpose (staying focused on our goals and maintaining high personal standards and a positive outlook in order to succeed), *kuumba* - creativity (thinking of ways to make our community and world a better place), and *imani* - faith (believing in ourselves, our communities and the people around us. Faith is about love, self-acceptance, and accepting others. The *imani* principle advises that we speak words with feeling, life, and meaning because our words give body to our thoughts. Paint Branch's current process of re-defining and re-stating our vision and mission also requires us to choose words with feeling, life and meaning.

The Unitarian Universalist Association Leadership Council recently chose words for its vision statement that embody the values of unity, self-definition, an acknowledgement of work and responsibility, interdependence, purpose, the creation of strong community, and faithful love: "With humility and courage born of our history, we are called as Unitarian Universalists to build the Beloved Community where all souls are welcome as blessing, and the human family lives whole and reconciled."

Considering the Kwanzaa values any time of year reinforces Unitarian Universalist goals of expanding our understanding and appreciation of each other in order to continue our journey toward wholeness and the creation of beloved community.

(Editor's Note – This article was adapted from the December 28 worship service entitled "Uniting Past and Present")

More DARTT NEWS on following page ¶

UPCOMING DARTT EVENTS

Diversity & Anti-Racism Dialogues

Honoring the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person

Sunday, February 8, and Sunday, March 8.

In February the Diversity and Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will launch monthly dialogues for discussion and personal reflection on issues of diversity and race in our lives, our communities, our congregation and our world. The dialogues will focus on short articles and essays, selected in advance each month, as a starting point for conversation. The sessions stand alone. It is not necessary to participate every month. We will meet during Enrichment Hour on second Sundays in Room 4 of the RE Building.

Discussion will revolve around two articles that appeared in the November 30th edition of The Washington Post, *I'm Not Post-Racial* by Krissah Williams Thompson, and *He's Not Black* by Marie Arana. Links to these articles will be posted on www.pbuuc.org under DARTT by January 25. Contact **Cynthia Robinson** at crr@pipeline.com or **Theresa Brown Shute** at tbshute_mk@hotmail.com for more information.

Author Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed visits here on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Mark Morrison-Reed's *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby* is a frank account of growing up black during the era of the Civil Rights movement. As Morrison-Reed wrestles with racism, the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., black radicalism, his interracial family, and his experience as one of the first black Unitarian Universalist ministers, he gives voice to the pioneering African Americans who were the first people of color in their neighborhoods, schools, churches and workplaces.

Raised Unitarian Universalist (UU), Mark Morrison-Reed was ordained as a UU minister in 1979. For 26 years, he and his wife, Donna, served as co-ministers—first in Rochester, NY, then in Toronto, ON, Canada. Morrison-Reed's graduate thesis, *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, was published in 1984 and is still in print. He is co-editor, with Jacqui James, of *Been in the Storm So Long*, a UU meditation manual.



Now retired from full-time ministry, Morrison-Reed divides his time between writing and other interests. Recently, he has been working with Meadville Lombard Theological School to organize and

build the library's archive of materials relating to African American involvement in Universalism, Unitarianism, and Unitarian Universalism.

Meet Mark Morrison-Reed in the PBUUC Meeting House on Sunday, February 8th at 7pm, where he will show a brief DVD, read from his newest book, and answer questions. A book-signing and reception will follow. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested. Any receipts beyond the cost of the reception and child care will help the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) work toward its goal of sponsoring an Ysaye Barnwell creative musical workshop. Child care will be provided – please provide the ages of your children in advance by contacting **Tricia Most** at 301-445-2821 or patricia_most@msn.com

All of Mark Morrison-Reed's books will be available for purchase in the Meeting House Lobby the night of his appearance and after worship services beginning February 1, 2009. Book prices are as follows

- *In Between: Memoir Of An Integration Baby* - \$18
- *Black Pioneers In a White Denomination* - \$16. Examples of racism in liberal religion tell the stories of two pioneering black ministers. Includes accounts of some of today's more integrated UU congregations and biographical notes on past and present black Unitarian, Universalist and UU ministers.
- *Been In The Storm So Long* - \$10. First published in 1991, this stirring volume features more than 40 selections from the spirited voices of 29 African-American UUs. Contributors include **David H. Eaton, Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, Rosemary Bray McNatt, Thandeka, Egbert Ethelred Brown** and more.

(More DARTT NEWS on following page) □

Journey toward Wholeness Films in February and Beyond

Anticipating the February Women's Retreat, this month's videos will feature women's issues. Men are also welcome. We'll meet in Room 1 at 7:30 pm.

February 13: *No! Confronting Sexual Assault in Our Communities*, a new documentary about the impact of sexual violence on Black women and girls. This film combines socio-historical inquiry with violence prevention messages and first person testimony.

February 20: Zora Neale Hurston's *Jump at the Sun* portrays this gifted African American woman in all her flamboyant, controversial, original complexity.

For childcare, call **Marj Donn** by the Wednesday before at 301-474-1353. To reserve a dinner reservation that evening, call Judy (Shannon) Grady at 301-794-8221.

During March through May, we will have 3 films per month, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday evenings. We will reshow the *Power of Illusion* and *Jim Crow* series, with a few new films as well. Exact showing dates will be announced in upcoming editions of Branches and our Sunday Bulletin.

DARTT to sponsor Theater Trip to Crowns

Crowns, a musical based on the books *Crows: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, returns to the Arena Stage this Spring. The musical is about hats usually worn to church by black women of a certain age, as a metaphor for viewing an important slice of African American life. Join DARTT in a theater party on Sunday, April 5 at 2 pm at the Arena Stage production, to be presented at the historical Lincoln Theater, located at 1200 U Street, NW, Washington, DC.

First balcony tickets are \$60 – a 10 percent savings. This party is a DARTT fundraiser to support a singing workshop at PBUUC late in 2009, led by the renowned Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey In the Rock.

Reserve your tickets by Sunday, February 22 by contacting either **Renee Katz** at 301-890-1599 or **Carol Carter Walker** at 202-636-8138. Payment is due by Sunday, March 8. Call Renee or Carol if you have questions or need further information.

In and Around Paint Branch

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team submitted an eight-page candidacy application so that Paint Branch can earn the designation of Green Sanctuary. The test: What does being designated a Green Sanctuary mean? It means honoring the seventh UUA Principle affirming the interdependent web of all existence. The 150-member Cedars UU Church on Bainbridge Island, Washington, used the designation to become known in the community.

Recycling news: Both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties have expanded the list of recyclables! It pays to recycle! Please consult the following website, http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dep/solid_waste/collectionservices/material_detail.asp?category_ID=16 or the flyer mailed to your household by your county.

All are invited to join the vibrant, active Green Team. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 8 during Enrichment Hour. Look for the announcement in the foyer after church.

- Penny O'Brien

UPCOMING MUSIC AT PAINT BRANCH CONCERTS

Please mark your calendars for the following FREE concerts in the *Music at Paint Branch* concert series, to be held in the PBUUC Meeting House. **David Chapman** and the Arts Council are excited to continue bringing these professional-quality concerts to PBUUC. Donations to support the artist and the concert series are gratefully accepted. Everyone is welcome!

Saturday, February 14 at 5:00 pm
– **Audrey Andrist, pianist**

PBUUC is honored to host a second classical recital by renowned Canadian pianist, **Audrey Andrist**. Ms. Andrist has performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician, as well as with major orchestras. Among her many accomplishments, she is the first prizewinner of the San Antonio International Competition, the Mozart International Competition, and the Juilliard Concerto Competition

Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 pm

San-Qing Lu-Bennaman, pianist

Music Director **David Chapman** is thrilled to be bringing the immensely talented **San-Qing Lu-Bennaman**, pianist, to PBUUC as part of our *Music at Paint Branch* concert series. She will be performing works by Mozart, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff. Ms. Lu-Bennaman performed as the principal soloist of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra for many years before moving to the US, studying at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and later earning an Artist Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory of Music on a full scholarship. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician and won first prize in two international piano competitions. She now lives in Rockville, MD and teaches piano.

Saturday, April 11 (time TBA)

– **Michellee Howard-Hanson, soprano**

On Saturday, April 11, Ms. **Michellee Howard-Hanson**, soprano, will bring her amazing voice to PBUUC once again to perform for us, accompanied by pianist (and her voice teacher) **David Chapman**.

ART GALLERY - IMAGES OF SPAIN

The pictures on display in the Meeting House represent my fifth opportunity to display images in our beautiful Sanctuary. These photographs are from two visits to Spain, in 2000 and 2008, and include Barcelona, Madrid, the Andalusia and Catalonia Regions, as well as pictures from nearby Gibraltar and Tangier. They represent many aspects of Spain, from the magnificent architecture of the Alhambra, the scenery and history around Ronda, the fountains, arches and palaces of Madrid, the amazing contributions of **Antoni Gaudi** in Barcelona, and the amusing Barbary Apes of Gibraltar. The pictures will remain on display until the end of February.

A reception will be held on Sunday, February 22, beginning at Enrichment Hour, and extending until 1.30 pm. All images are for sale at \$100.00 each, including matting but not frames. 20% of sales will be contributed to PBUUC. For more information, please contact me at 240-293-6570.

- Don Gearson

HANDCRAFT CIRCLE

Many, many thanks to all the Paint Branchers who supported the Annual Foyer Hats and Mittens Sale and Auction Boutique. The total from both sales was approximately \$1350, *all of which went directly to PBUUC!* Yarns and other materials were generously donated by the handcrafters and other Paint Branchers. Special thanks to all who contributed items for this year's sale: **Nancy Etkin, Elizabeth Schieman, Sylvia Lagerquist, Penny O'Brien, Marj Donn, Alice Tyler, Chriss Kovac, Esther Nichols, Bronwyn Logan** (Rebecca Birnie's sister), **Pat Tompkins** (for donating some items made by her late mother), **Tish Hall**, and **Marie Gore**. (If we've inadvertently left someone off the list, please let me know!)

At the Family Holiday service this year, children (from 1 to 81) placed hats, mittens, scarves and other warm garments under the Paint Branch Christmas tree. Many of these gifts were purchased at the PBUUC sales. Items will be distributed to local school children who are in need of warm clothing and to some of our guests at Warm Nights. Last year we also donated some of the items to local families made homeless by a fire in their apartment buildings. This year we will give away 15 scarves, 26 caps, 18 pairs of mittens, 2 headbands, 1 throw, and a child's cap and sweater set.

Handcrafters know the deep satisfaction that comes from creating beautiful and useful garments. There is an extra boost in knowing that your creations will bring joy to a fellow Paint Brancher or warmth to a needy person, while helping PBUUC meet some of its budgeted goals. The Handcraft Circle meets during Enrichment Hour on the second and fourth Sundays from September through June. We have a supply of patterns, yarn and needles to teach beginning knitting and crocheting. If you are unable to attend meetings, won't you make up a hat or two, a scarf, or mittens for the next sale? Start now and you'll have a few things ready by November!

Wondering what to do with your odds and ends and unfinished projects? Why not donate them to PBUUC? We'll make them up into beautiful, useful items. For more information, please contact **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353, or Marie Gore at 301 572-4679 or mgore22215@aol.com, or stop by and talk with us during Enrichment Hour.

ETHNIC DINNERS

“Going to Afghanistan” are words we don’t like to hear, as they usually mean someone we care about is being deployed to a war zone. President Obama has said even more troops will be going in the near future. It is indeed a destination with negative connotations. Except for Paint Branch this month.

Ethnic Dinners have always been about people and their food, not about politics. For millennia, human beings all over this planet have discovered or created some wonderful ways to prepare the ingredients available to them; to make their meals not just a means of survival, but a source of enjoyment. By recreating those dishes, we, too, are able to enjoy them. Past or present relationships between our governments are irrelevant to that pursuit. We have already enjoyed dinners based on cuisine from England, Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union, Mexico, Spain, Korea and Vietnam. For the next Ethnic Dinner, **Saturday, February 21, at 7:30 pm**, we are going to **Afghanistan**.

We are aware that this date conflicts with some auction events, so please check your calendar. The menu-planning meeting was well attended, and several people recommended favorite dishes. The menu is chock full of dishes exemplifying cross-cultural ties with Turkey, India and all the other “stans” reflecting Afghanistan’s position in the middle of historic trade routes. Most of the recipes are uncomplicated and consist of familiar, easy to obtain ingredients. Many of them either are vegetarian or can easily be made vegetarian.

Volunteers are needed to set up, cook, tend the door, help with the bar and clean up. If you have any access to recorded Afghan music or know where we can borrow or purchase some CDs, *please* let us know. And don’t forget those plastic containers for the leftovers sale.

Tickets are \$15 for adults. The full menu, recipes and volunteer sign-up sheet will be available following Sunday services on February 1, 8, and 15.

If you have questions, suggestions, want to make reservations, volunteer or contribute music, please contact me at 301-805-1218. or at buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

- Marilyn Pearl

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

Many thanks to those who assisted with this year's New Year's Eve gala, especially **Pat & Charles Tompkins** who, yet again, helped transform the Kelley Room into the PB Candlelight Ballroom, and the terrific 1 am clean-up crew. As always, we had a great time greeting the new year together. We have officially retired from coordinating duties after 5 years, leaving a wonderful volunteer opportunity open for next year. We're available for consultation and assistance, and we'll bring the mirror ball. Contact us if you'd like to talk about it. Yanorup04@comcast.net.

- Elizabeth Yanowitch and Andy Myrup

PARTNER CHURCH SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO TRANSYLVANIA, AND ROMANIA.

The UUA Partner Church Council is offering a special pilgrimage to Transylvania for Greater Washington Area UUs in July. The itinerary for this 14-day pilgrimage will begin in lovely Budapest, include travel to many historic Unitarian sites in Romania, and provide three days in a Unitarian church village. The goal is to inform UUs more fully about the breadth and depth of our faith by fostering a new understanding of our historical roots, and building deeper relationships with our co-religionists in Transylvania.

John Dale, coordinator of Transylvania pilgrimages, will speak at the UU Church of Silver Spring on Sunday, March 1, at 10:30 am, and at the UU Congregation of Columbia on Sunday, February 22, at 10:30 am. All are cordially invited to attend either presentation. For complete itinerary and details about this pilgrimage, go to www.uupcc.org, and under “Travel,” click on “public/private trips.”

If there is interest at PBUUC, we may be able to schedule a presentation at our church on a non-Sunday between mid-February and mid-March, when John Dale will be in the DC area. Please contact me at 240-293-6570 if you are interested and cannot make the other presentations.

- Don Gerson

LOCAL UU JOBS OFFERINGS

Communications Coordinator – Part-time 25 hours

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bethesda, seeks a communications specialist to manage publications and the web site. Relevant experience required; BA/BS helpful. Proficiency in MS Office, and MS Publisher, editing, production, and web support. Some reception and general office support duties. Please visit www.ruuuc.org for job description and application process.

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

Sally La Mar- New Branches Copy Editor



I am pleased to announce that **Sally La Mar** has come on board the *Branches* Staff as our new copy editor. Her primary responsibility is to review and edit all articles and information. She joins the

paid and volunteer office staff in helping to produce each issue of the Newsletter: **Alice Tyler, Julie Dahmer, Carol Carter Walker, Bettie Young, Evangeline Wells, Elizabeth Scheiman and Rebecca Birnie**, Administrative Assistant You can continue to send your articles each month to the church office

Do you have thoughts about Branches?



I am looking to gather some individuals together for the purposes of reviewing past editions of *Branches* and providing thoughtful commentary on content and

size. The ultimate goal is to review and update newsletter policy. If you have experience in newsletter production, writing or editing, please contact me at the church office during normal business hours. Contact information is located on page 15 of this issue. Depending on the response received, I hope to form this ad hoc group of advisors by March.

- Daniel Everitt, Church Administrator

Weaving the Web

Last month we talked about snow emergencies, late breaking events and how to find out about them. This month we will talk about advertising events on the web.

If you look at the following page on our website, www.pbuuc.org/news/upcoming.html, you will see two aspects of our calendar. At the top is a brief description of two series of events, the Music at Paint Branch concerts and Diversity / Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) events. Both have links to more extensive pages about their programs.

Below the introduction to these series is our regular event calendar which requires a description of an event in a maximum of 100 words, including the time and place. One of the joys of the internet is that if additional information is needed you can create a file and hyperlink to it, without requiring people to scroll past a lot of material to find the next event in line.

If you are wish to find out what is going on, use this page. If you are interested in promoting an event, please send the information to mstark@pbuuc.org. The generic way of adding more information is to add a phrase like “more details” at the end, underline it in your file, and provide the file you want to link to. Web techies know how to proceed from there. In some cases, like the Women’s Retreat, you may have both extended information and a registration form. No problem. Hyperlinks are your friend. Just use underlining in your brief blurb to indicate where you want them.

You can also put in placeholders for distant events. For example, since the date is already set for the May Ethnic Dinner, it would be perfectly legitimate to put in a place holder even if the time and theme are not yet known. Placeholders help people plan.

Feel free to get your events listed on the calendar by contacting mstark@pbuuc.org. If you have a series, such as Music at Paint Branch, you can also contact me to set it up on the Web site. Next month I will resume my constant plea for volunteers. **Artists, writers, techies and even kibitzers are welcome.** My highest current priorities are the “Our Caring Community” and “Social Action” pages.

- Mike Stark, Webmaster

PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

–STAFF–

Co-ministers	Rev. Phyllis Hubbell	301-937-3666
.....	Rev. John Manwell	301-937-3666
Music Director/Pianist....	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Dir. of Rel. Exploration..	Carla N. Miller	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst.....	Penney Hughes	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers.....	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst.	Rebecca Birnie.	301-937-3666
Bookkeeper	vacant	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
.....	Chuck Bury	301-799-2535
.....	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
.....	Rich O'Brien	301-787-5999
Child Care Provider	Carol Tutz	301-937-3666

–OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES–

Chair	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Vice-Chair	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Vice-Chair	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Trustee	James Alexander.....	301-277-3211
Trustee	Abby Crowley	301-345-2663
Trustee	Ken Montville.....	301-464-8367
Trustee	Diane Niedzialkowski	301-622-2010
Trustee	Polly Pettit.....	301-589-1015
Trustee	Will Snyder	301-474-1202
Secretary	Anita Wagner	703-401-7230
Treasurer.....	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473

–CARING COMMUNITY–

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:

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.....	Jonathan Mawdsley.....	301-982-4520
.....	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein (Lead)	301-891-2071
.....	Alice Tyler	301-935-5279

–We Care Coordinator for February–

JERI HOLLOWAY – 301-982-0758

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.....	Erin Washburn (Youth Assoc.)	
.....	Don Henderson.....	301-681-4033
.....	Michael Léger (Lead).....	301-982-2986
.....	Tosha O'Neal	301-459-0077
.....	Marilyn Pearl.....	301-805-1218
.....	Pat Tompkins (Lead).....	301-474-3858

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Budget Leadership Team	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Buildings & Grounds	James Alexander	301-277-3211
DARTT	Tricia Most.....	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker ..	202-636-8138
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Denominational Affairs	Donald Gerson	240-293-6570
Finance	Don Henderson	301-681-4033
Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Membership	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Nominating	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Personnel	Marcie Washburn	301-384-5156
Public Relations	Vacant	
Religious Exploration	Tina Van Pelt	301-927-0331
Social Action	Vacant	

– GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES –

Auction Committee	Jan Montville... ..	301-464-6298
	Kathi Yu	301-593-2853
Beacon House	Nathan Rummel	301-776-8551
Bridge	Ellen Cotts.....	301-572-3983
Canvass	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Chalice Dancers	Jennifer Grant.. ..	240-426-1277
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl... ..	301-805-1218
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield	301-552-4330
Men's Group	John Bartoli	301-441-2516
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter.....	301-982-4520
Religious Quest	Lowell Owens	301-345-1572
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker... ..	301-891-1288
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner	301-890-9072
TWedHUULK	Larry Lates	301-345-6923
Ushers	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Writers' Group	Marjory Donn.. ..	301-474-1353



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this mailing and return to PBUUC****

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Postmaster: Send Address Changes to Editor, *Branches*, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20873