



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

**MARCH 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)

#### **MARCH 1**

#### **THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART**

Rev. John Manwell, *Co-minister*, with Marilyn Pearl, *Worship Associate*  
*Grades 6-8 begin in the Kelley Room for youth chapel.*

Many in our tradition have abandoned the practice of prayer. To whom would we pray? And why, if ours is a religion of reason? It has been a troublesome issue at Paint Branch. Yet prayer is not just about asking, but about listening, and reflecting. We can draw strength from it, and find ourselves changed. At its best, it's a conversation with something experienced deep within ourselves, whether or not there is any God "out there" who's listening. As A. Powell Davies titled one of his books, prayer is "the language of the heart." We don't have to understand how it works, let alone resolve the mysteries of the universe. This morning we reflect, prayerfully, on these issues.

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#### **MARCH 8**

#### **ONE FOR ALL; ALL FOR ONE**

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, *Co-minister*, with Tish Hall, *Worship Associate*, and the PBUUC Choir  
*Together Time - All Ages begin in the meeting house.*  
*Today we honor our Roots & Wings class with a special ceremony!*

At weddings, the minister often says that while the two people getting married will remain two separate individuals after they marry, their marriage creates a new entity which includes them both. Churches are much like that. At Paint Branch, there are 215 separate individuals. Yet there is also a different entity that holds all of them. Today, we reflect on what it means to be one, yet many.

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#### **MARCH 15**

#### **TO YOU I GIVE.**

Rev. John P. Manwell, *Co-minister*, with Shantida, *Worship Associate*  
*Grades 1-5 begin in the Kelley Room for Children's Chapel.*

As our annual stewardship campaign begins, we reflect this morning on what the church means to us. Is it just "one more thing" on top of all the other demands we face with our money – or is it "the main thing" that offers, for us, that steady, centering, encouraging guidance in our lives, and a caring community? . . . "Together we share, and by this we live."

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#### **MARCH 22**

#### **THE MUSIC IN OUR LIVES**

The Youth of Paint Branch, with Don Henderson, *Worship Associate*  
*Grades 6-8 go to service today; all other grades go to class.*

Whether it's the beating of our hearts or the beating of the drums, music connects us. We all have a soundtrack for our lives, and we can hear the rhythm of life pulsating around us. Join the Youth Group for a harmonious look at the significance of music, locally and globally.

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#### **MARCH 29**

#### **AWAKENING THE INNER SPIRIT: A SERVICE FOR THE BODY, MIND AND SOUL**

The Paint Branch Chalice Dancers with Vanessa Landau, Five Dancing,  
The Erika Thimey Dance Company, Tosha O'Neal, *Worship Associate* and the PBUUC Choir

In this challenging time it is more important than ever to awaken the spirit within us all. We will celebrate the divine vitality, energy and power of our bodies...we will awaken the richness of our souls as we find renewal and empowerment to bring all that is possible to our lives, individually and in community.

## *Monthly Ministers' Article: Roots and Wings*

In February, Phyllis invited Gita Deane and Lisa Polyak to take part in a service focusing on marriage for same gender couples. Gita and Lisa were the lead plaintiffs in the ACLU lawsuit to establish the right to marry for same gender couples in Maryland, a suit which failed by just one vote in the Court of Appeals. They shared some of their very moving story. In her sermon Phyllis announced that she had come to the conclusion that as a matter of conscience, she feels she can no longer act as an agent of the state in signing marriage licenses even for heterosexual couples, at least while Maryland continues to deny this right to same gender couples.

Both of us join in this conclusion. Because not everyone was at that service, and because our witness would have some limited implications for this congregation, we want to share with you our reasons and answer some of the questions you may have.

As we have worked with dozens of couples over the years in preparing for holy unions and religious marriages, it has become clear to us that couples of the same gender bring to their marriages the same love as heterosexual couples. They want for their families the same opportunity to establish a safe and loving space in which to live, to raise children, and to serve the community.

Therefore it seems to us wrong for the state to bar them from the equal protections and the equal status that civil marriage brings. Lisa and Gita have had to pay thousands of dollars to lawyers to get at least some of the same rights that other couples take for granted. They were separated during the birth of their daughter. We think it is the state's role to protect the vulnerable, not enforce the views of particular religious bodies in the civil realm.

In many countries, even those where church and state are not separated, civil marriage and religious marriage are separate. To be legally married, you go to the courthouse. If you also want a religious marriage, you go to a church. In our country, where church and state have long been separate, it is surely an anomaly that the state still delegates to the clergy the right to perform a legal marriage on behalf of the state. This is the only area that we are aware of in which clergy act as agents of

the state, placing the two of us in the position of enforcing a discriminatory law.

A handful of other clergy, mostly Unitarian Universalists, have refused to sign wedding licenses until their states legalize civil marriages. Should Paint Branch support this action, it would be a leader on this issue. Initial talks with our colleagues indicate that Proposition 8 in California and the loss of the ACLU lawsuit in Maryland might have created a climate which may lead other clergy to join us.



Let's talk about the consequences. We will continue to perform religious ceremonies. At present, we have no weddings scheduled at Paint Branch so our

decision is likely to have little immediate practical impact. We invite any couples who may be planning a ceremony before we leave to contact us to discuss the situation. We hope the Board will support us in this act of conscience, but because we have made this decision in the middle of the church year, we want to work with you. Couples wishing a legal ceremony would need to take part in a civil ceremony before a clerk of the court. This would mean an extra trip to the courthouse, and an extra \$25 in fees.

For Paint Branch, this could mean some loss of rental revenue, if some couples choose to go elsewhere to be married to avoid the inconvenience of two ceremonies. In practice, however, even before this decision, we have so far performed only one non-member wedding at Paint Branch this year. We hope and expect that if this church becomes known for this stand it will attract more couples, both straight and gay.

What can you do? We hope that you will support us in our act of conscience. We have discussed this with Rev. Keith Kron of the UUA and with Equality Maryland, both of whom support our stand. We will be discussing this with the Board so that we may together consider all the implications for us and for the church. We have been thinking of this for some time. The exact date of implementation is less important than taking the stand.

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What else can you do? We hope that our declaration will start a conversation within the congregation. After all, we are only here for a year. It is up to this congregation, working with its new minister, to determine how best to live out its mission as a Welcoming Congregation supporting justice for all people.

Paint Branch could become one of the first churches in the country to declare that it will allow only religious services in its sanctuary, again as a matter of conscience. Individuals could go as a group to Annapolis for Lobby Day next year, write letters, make phone calls – informing their delegates that we, too, are religious people – telling them that we believe more love is needed, not less, asking them to stand up for the vulnerable citizens of this state who have done nothing wrong except love the wrong person. These are the kinds of action that might make our representatives take notice. The ones we have spoken with tend to think all religions oppose same gender marriage. They need to hear from us.

We hope this is an idea whose time is coming. It astonished us last month, at Equality Maryland's Lobby Day, when a legislator in our own, very conservative, district in Baltimore County suggested to us that Maryland should offer civil unions to everyone.

As the choir sang at our service, "We will not give up the fight, we have only started." Let us start this new path on the way to justice.

*Revs. Phyllis Hubbell and John Manwell*

### ***News from the Budget Leadership Team***

The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) has begun planning for the 2009-2010 budget year. Committee Chairs have been asked to submit budget requests, together with written justification, to the Budget Leadership Team in time for the hearings to take place on March 2, 3, 8, and 9. If you are interested in a particular budget, contact the Chair of the relevant Committee to find out when its hearing will be held. Nothing will be finalized until after Canvass results are in. The members of the BLT are **Kate Brett**, chair, **Carol Carter Walker**, **Paul Wester**, **Marcie Washburn** with assistance from **Ellen Cotts**, Board Treasurer and **Michael Stark** Assistant Treasurer.

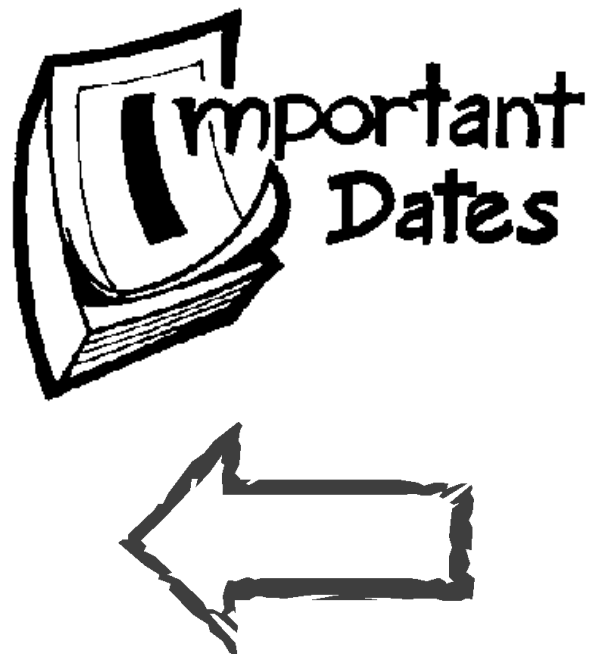
### ***From the Board Chair***

I was inspired by the workshop led by Phyllis and John last month to review our church history. That workshop is being followed soon by a congregational town hall meeting to review many important issues facing us. Finally, there will be a covenanting workshop that will take place this coming month.

My excitement grows about the prospect of learning whom the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) chooses to be the final ministerial candidate. By the time *Branches* reaches you in April, we will know when that candidate comes to Paint Branch to meet with us and when we will vote on him or her. The vote on a new minister must not be taken lightly. While we all have entrusted the MSC to find the best candidate for our church, we must all decide for ourselves whether or not we agree with the choice. A simple majority vote is not enough; it is essential to have close to ninety per cent of the vote in favor of the candidate, in order not to have a divided congregation.

In closing, I would like to thank *all* of the people who help to make our church function as well as it does. So many people do so many things, it would be impossible to name all those who contribute their time and talents to this church. Know that I am deeply appreciative of all that is so graciously given.

*In peace, Kate Brett, Chair – Board of Trustees*



## ***Board Treasurer Report: The upcoming canvass***

A little straight talk about the canvass:

The canvass is a critical component of the financial picture of the church. It is held every spring asking for pledges for the following fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

This year we need YOU to do two things:

- Make your own pledge promptly and,
- agree to be a Visiting Steward. Read on for more details.



The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) uses the sum of the pledges to put together the budget. Most churches discount the pledges a bit, expecting that not all the money will be received. However, at PBUUC, in recent years at least, we have

been budgeting the full amount. In addition we budget for an additional \$10,000 which we think will be received from new members and from casual visitors.

This forms the backbone of the budget. If the canvass does not go well, then the budget is pared down. Since we must pay salaries and heat the building, other things are short changed - principally maintenance and programs.

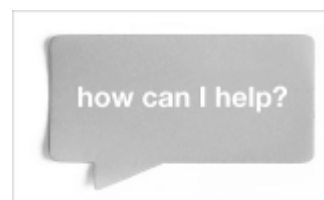
What has been our actual experience? In FY06 we received \$268,000 in pledges; in FY07, \$260,000; in FY08, \$282,463; and in FY09, \$261,252. It has been very difficult to adjust the budget to these gyrations.

Why do pledges go up and then down again? It can mean that we are losing members and this is true to some extent. Some of our long-term members have passed away or retired to other parts of the country. That happens in every congregation. And we do have new members. Perhaps their pledges are lower than those that were lost and this too is expected. It takes time for new members to become as committed as those who were here for decades. But this is not the whole answer.

I have been doing some extra work this year to keep track of pledges. One thing I have found is that there are some people who contribute regularly but who did not pledge. A few are new to PBUUC but a good number have been around for a long time. While we certainly appreciate the financial support, THIS DOES NOT HELP WITH THE BUDGET!! In order to put together a reasonable budget, we must base it on something concrete. And that is the amount pledged during the canvass.

Ideally, how would the canvass go? First, many people would volunteer to be Visiting Stewards (the new name for Canvassers). The new name indicates that the purpose is not only to obtain the pledge, but to find out how people are feeling about the church, what is working well for them and what is not, and what personal problems they may have. All this information is then funneled back to the ministers and the leadership so that we can become an even more intentionally supportive community.

I sometimes hear people say, "Oh, I don't want to canvass. I don't like doing that! A better response would be "It's not my favorite thing to do but I know how important it is, so I'll be glad to do my part." In workshops on Stewardship, professionals suggest that no Steward should be asked to visit more than 4 people (plus themselves). With that in mind, we need at least 30 Stewards to cover our congregation. With more Stewards, the work load of each can be even lower. May we count on YOU? (Call me if you are willing to be a Visiting Steward: 301-572-3983)



Another aspect of the canvass should be that all members and friends pledge willingly. No one likes to chase people for their pledges. Ideally, when a Visiting Steward

asks to visit you, you will get out your calendar and find a mutually suitable date. You would come to that meeting prepared to listen to input from the Steward and then make your pledge. It can be in your home, over coffee in a restaurant, or a quiet place to talk after church. Whatever works for you.

Can you help? Can you turn in your own pledge promptly? Can you offer to be a Visiting Steward? The health of PBUUC depends on your response.

*Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer*

## Ministerial Search Committee

### ARE WE THERE YET?

Slowly but surely we move toward our final choice for ministerial candidate to present to the congregation. We are in the middle of pre-candidating weekends right now. After looking at each candidate's Ministerial Record, exchanging packets, interviewing each other by phone, and calling their references, we finally have a list of those we are really interested in seeing up close and personal.

The Pre-Candidating Weekend starts with a casual dinner with the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) and the candidate (and their spouse, if one has come). No formal interviews, no formal questions, just some time to get to know one another.

On Saturday, the interviews grow more intense with the MSC bombarding the candidate with questions gathered from discussions during the cottage meetings and your responses to the congregational survey. After a light lunch with the committee, the candidate is taken on a short tour of our facilities and our community. Later, one of our co-chairs sits down with the candidate to discuss the technical and financial details of a possible ministerial agreement between the candidate and the congregation.

Saturday night is free for both the candidate and the Committee. They come together again Sunday morning to listen to a worship service delivered by the candidate at a "neutral pulpit". The Committee then meets one last time with the candidate over lunch when everyone gets to ask some final questions. After lunch, the candidate leaves for home and the Committee talks a little about their impressions but does not yet take a vote.

No vote is taken until all pre-candidating weekends are complete. This is the culmination of months and months of work. If we agree strongly that one candidate is really the right match for our congregation (and that is a good possibility), then we will invite that candidate to come down for Candidating Week.



Candidating Week is an intense and exciting time for both the candidate and the congregation. The week runs from Saturday one weekend through Sunday of the next weekend. The Candidate will be meeting formally and informally with people representing the major areas of the church: the RE Director and staff, the Music Director, members of the choir, the Church Administrator and staff, the RE teachers, the Worship Associates, the Pastoral Care Associates, the We Care Committee, the Social Action Committee and so on. The candidate also preaches a service at Paint Branch on both the first and last Sunday of that week.

There is more to say about Candidating Week and the final vote to call or not to call the minister, but I will save it for the next article. The MSC has reserved two weeks on the Church Calendar at the end of April: Saturday, April 18 through Sunday, April 26, and Saturday, April 25 through Sunday, May 3. If everything goes as planned, one of these weeks will be the actual Candidating Week.

Our only agenda is to find the ministry that is the best fit for our congregation. We're looking for a minister who leaves everyone with a strong conviction that the match is right for both parties. We will not settle for anything less.

The eight members of the Ministerial Search Committee 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, MSC Member*



## Religious Exploration (RE) News

by Carla Miller, DRE

*“The Mission and Ministry of Paint Branch Religious Exploration is to strengthen the spirit, encourage ethical action, and create a caring community of all ages.”*

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

301-937-3666, x 2

[dre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dre@pbuuc.org)

\*\* I'll be away from the office March 9-12 on a personal vacation, and again, March 16-18 for a professional development workshop on UU Identity.

### UPCOMING in RE

#### Monday, March 2

- RE Committee Meeting, 7 pm

#### Saturday, March 7

- Rehearsal for Roots & Wings Ceremony, 11:00 am

#### Sunday, March 8

- Roots & Wings Ceremony during Together Time/ Reception follows service

#### Sunday, March 15

- First Enrichment Hour Curriculum Discussion  
*See article below.*

#### Sunday, March 22

- Youth Sunday Service, 10 am with reception following

#### Sunday, March 29

- Teacher Tea , 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Childcare available

#### Sunday, April 12

- All Ages Easter/Flower Communion Service-  
Return your UUSC guest boxes!

#### Sunday, April 19

- Interconnected Web Unit begins during RE class time



## CURRICULUM PLANNING PROCESS BEGINS!

### RE Parents, RE Teachers Past and Present, RE Committee members, and Youth:

- *What are the most important themes to YOU in our religious exploration program?*
- *Which children's R.E. courses have been the most meaningful to you and to your family?*
- *What would you most like to see offered in the future?*

This spring we will be asking ourselves and one another these important questions as we end a three year RE curriculum cycle. With the new “Tapestry of Faith” series now available from the UUA, we have many new options, and more choices are arriving each semester! This variety of options is wonderful and the new series of curricula is excellent!

But it also becomes more important than ever that we:

- identify those curricula and themes which we value most to assure these will not be lost in the shuffle!
- determine what may be under-represented in our current curricular offerings and which we might hope to give greater emphasis in the future
- consider all the available options
- include many voices in the conversation and in the decision-making process

With the goal of hearing many voices, this spring's planning process will include the following steps:

1. A brief “**RE curriculum survey**” will go out to all RE families and teachers, and will also be available in the Meeting House foyer, from **Sunday, March 1 through Sunday, March 15**. Please take a moment to fill it out and express your preferences!

2. **Curriculum planning meetings** will take place during Enrichment Hours in March and April. Meetings have been scheduled for the following Sundays: **March 15, 22, and April 19**. We need a core curriculum planning team who will participate in these meetings, and be willing to bring some curricula home with them to peruse between meetings. But anyone who is interested in the process and discussion is welcome to attend! *(continued on next page)*

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**3. The March 15 Enrichment Hour meeting will include an overview of the Tapestry of Faith series.**

This may be of interest to many who wish to learn more about this new curricular series, whether or not you have a child in the RE program. All are welcome.

**4. A Coming of Age/Middle School Youth parent discussion** will be held for parents of next year's 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders **from 4:15-5:45 pm on March 22.** (An odd time, I know, but this when many of our kids are in OWL...Just drop off at UUCSS, and come on over to PBUUC for the meeting.)

**5. At the April 19 Enrichment Hour meeting,** we will report on the new curricula that we have evaluated, and complete the curriculum selection process for the near future.

**6. Based on the previous steps in the process,** the curriculum recommendations for next fall and beyond will be sent to the RE Committee for approval.

Contact **Carla Miller**, to indicate interest in the Curriculum Planning Team, or prepare to say YES when I contact you for this short-term commitment. Many thanks for your active interest in the learning experiences that we offer our children in Paint Branch Religious Exploration!!

*The "Web of Life" unit begins for all classes on April 19 in the Kelley Room, glen, woods and creek! You won't want to miss this! Invite a friend to join you, too!*

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

### **UPCOMING Youth Advisory Committee Meeting.**

The Youth Advisory Committee is meeting next on Sunday, March 8 during Enrichment Hour in the hospitality room. The YAC meets to support the youth group, help coordinate activities as needed and facilitate communication between the Youth Group and the greater church community. Contact Penney Hughes for details.

### **Intergenerational Coffee Hour**

In February the Youth Group hosted a very well attended Intergenerational Coffee Hour. It was truly an intergenerational event with congregants from all ages attending. Many attendees participated in an icebreaker and got to know each other better while others simply mixed with the youth and other members of the congregation.

Thanks to everyone who attended and the volunteers who brought together food and drinks and helped with clean-up, in particular **Erin, Liam, Chris, Mike, Celeste, Tish, Cory and Penney.** The Youth Group also held a successful IKEA lock-in and selected a new blue rug from said store for Room 1.

### **Youth to lead worship service in March.**

In March the Youth Group will be presenting a service with Worship Associate Don Henderson on music. See page 1 of Branches for a full description of our Sunday Service. Also look for the Youth Group to be holding lunch fundraisers for the upcoming Town Hall meeting and Covenant Workshop.

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## PBUUC COVENANT WORKSHOP

**On Saturday, March 14, from 10 am to 4 pm,** PBUUC will hold a workshop to begin the process of developing a covenant for our church which will spell out guidelines for how we want to be together as a congregation. It is VERY important a broad cross section of Paint Branchers participates. **Childcare will be available.** Lunch will be provided.

**Paula Cole Jones**, a consultant for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), will facilitate this workshop. For more information about the workshop see the Monthly Ministers' Article on page 2. So that we can plan lunch and anticipate childcare needs, please RSVP to **Julie Dahmer** at 301-890-7807 or [jcdahmer@comcast.net](mailto:jcdahmer@comcast.net) by Friday, March 6.

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## RE-EMERGENCE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE - SUN., MAR. 29 ENRICHMENT HOUR

RE-EMERGENCE evolves when, as we are given the opportunity to tell our stories, we contradict the powerlessness we feel in response to injustice and oppression. Whether we experience hurts personally or witness others' hurts, we can employ RE-EVALUATION TOOLS, such as contradiction, and reclaim our voice and our true power. In this lecture-demonstration, we learn about the tools and processes that support RE-EMERGENCE. All are welcome to this lecture-demonstration led by **Sally Osterling**; Area Liberation Reference Person for the International Re-evaluation Counseling Communities. For more information, contact **Vanessa Landau** at 301-742-2084.

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

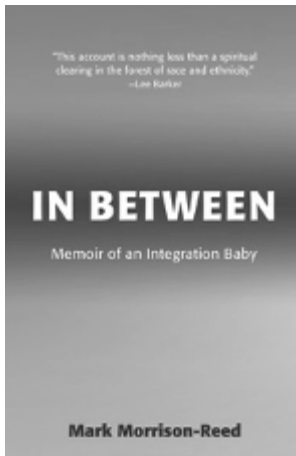
### **DIVERSITY DIALOGUES:**

#### ***Honoring the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person***

Sunday, March 8, during Enrichment Hour,  
11:45 am – 12:45 pm, Room 4, RE Building

In February, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) launched Diversity Dialogues and had a great first meeting! These monthly sessions offer a chance for personal reflection and discussion on issues of diversity and race in our own lives, our communities, our congregation, and our world.

The dialogues focus on short articles or essays as a starting point for deep conversation. Sessions stand alone; it is not necessary to commit to participating every month. We meet during Enrichment Hour on second Sundays in Room 4.



The March 8 meeting will focus on Mark Morrison-Reed's memoir, *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*. For those who missed Mark Morrison-Reed's visit to Paint Branch, it's not too late to discuss what may have moved you when reading his book which wrestles with racism, black radicalism, his interracial family, and his experience as

one of the first black UU ministers. What did you relate to, wonder about, laugh at or cry at while reading about his personal journey?

We welcome all to join in as we engage our minds and our hearts in exploring and sharing both the challenges and opportunities of personal and collective transformation to embrace diversity in all its forms. Join us on a journey toward wholeness. Please contact **Cynthia Robinson** at [crr@pipeline.com](mailto:crr@pipeline.com) or **Theresa Brown Shute** at [tbshute@gmail.com](mailto:tbshute@gmail.com) for more information.

## **INAUGURATION DAY - 2009**



The monthly DARTT column provides different voices united in a common mission -- to raise awareness about racism and promote personal transformation and spiritual growth that

will intentionally move our congregation to become a truly welcoming, multi-racial, multi-cultural community. This month's column was authored by long time Paint Branch member **Margaret C. Morrison**, who is 73 years young and the widow of the late Unitarian Universalist Rev. Roy Morrison. Margaret, attended the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama and presented her experience in a creative visual format that must be seen to be appreciated. Please see and read her moving column at:

<http://www.pbuuc.org/socact/dartt/darttbranches0309.pdf>

## **JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS FILMS**

On three Friday evenings in March we will reprise the excellent series, "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow," which traces the history of Negroes/Blacks in America. Everyone should see these films at least once:

- March 13: "Promises Betrayed" (1865-1896)
- March 20: "Fighting Back" (1896-1917)
- March 27: "Don't Shoot Too Soon" (1917-1940)

Snacks and drinks available for a donation. If you need childcare, please call **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353 by the Wednesday prior to the date of the film you are interested in seeing. If you need dinner, call **Judy "Shannon" Grady** at 301-794-8221.

The fourth in this series will be shown in April. SNEAK PREVIEW: In April we're also going to show "Senator Obama in Africa." For a full listing of films through May, see the church website at [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org).

*(DARTT News continued on next page)*



## DARTT TO SPONSOR THEATER TRIP TO CROWNS

*Crowns*, a musical based on the book *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, returns to the Arena Stage this Spring. It 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 historical Lincoln Theater at 1200 U Street, NW, Washington, DC. 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.

First balcony tickets are \$60 – a 10 percent savings. Reserve your tickets by Sunday, March 1, by contacting either **Renee Katz** at 301-928-3200 or **Carol Carter Walker** at 202-636-8138. Payment is due by Sunday, March 15. Call Renee or Carol if you have questions or need further information.

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## MARK MORRISON-READ EVENT A SUCCESS

Thank you to all who helped make the book discussion and signing by **Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed** on Sunday February 8 at Paint Branch a success. Fifty-five people attended from Paint Branch and other UU congregations throughout the Joseph Priestley District, among them several members of the District's Journey Toward Wholeness Committee.

Thanks to the following individuals for their help with this event: **Tricia Most;** **Don and Emma Sue Gerson;** **Sandy Roberts and Carol Carter Walker;** **Theresa Brown Shute, Ron Cotts.** Thanks also to **Jillian Conway**, Joseph Priestley District Administrative Assistant, **Cynthia Snavelly**, UUs for Social Justice Administrator; and **Al Carlson**, listserv moderator for UU congregations in the Greater Washington Area for their assistance. Although the event was not planned as a fundraiser, proceeds from the sale of Morrison-Reed's books will be used to present an affordable vocal workshop by Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey In The Rock, later in 2009. Special appreciation goes to our interim co-ministers, colleagues and friends of Mark Morrison-Reed, who brought this opportunity to Paint Branch.

## *In and Around Paint Branch*

### GREEN TEAM

Please attend the March 1 Town Hall meeting. The Green Team members have planned a short presentation on the green issues that must be addressed to achieve Green Sanctuary status for Paint Branch.

The next meeting of the Green Team is scheduled for March 8 during Enrichment Hour. Please come if you'd like to be part of the significant green action and work. If you have energy questions, please direct them to your Green Team.

What's this about Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL's)? It was pointed out at the last meeting that not all brands of CFL's are created equal. References were cited on which CFL bulbs that will save the most money, and also those that have the least mercury. Remember CFL's last 10 times longer.

Recycling news: The company that buys our recycled paper does not accept corrugated cardboard boxes. Please do not put them in the dumpster. PBUUC is looking for a volunteer to take these items to a place that will accept them. Anyone who would like to help with taking cardboard to a recycling plant, please contact a member of the Green Team.

*Penny O'Brien*

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL TOWN HALL MEETING SUN TODAY

**5. PLEASE ATTEND**, on March 1, a Town Hall Meeting beginning during Enrichment Hour and ending at 2pm. All Adult Enrichment Hour activities have been set aside, **YOUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED** during this meeting in which we will have a few short presentations, including information on where the Ministerial Search Committee is in their process, and a presentation of the Green Team's application to be a Green Sanctuary, as well as time for small group discussions on a range of church issues. A soup lunch will be served immediately after service to facilitate your attendance.

### WRITERS' GROUP

The Paint Branch Writers' Group (a supportive critique group) is re-forming with meeting dates as yet undetermined. If interested in joining us, please call **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353.

## 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!

**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)**

**Michelle Howard-Hanson, soprano**

On Saturday, April 11, Ms. **Michelle 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**.

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## SOCIAL ACTION SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Our special collection for Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice netted \$791. This local coordinating group helps congregations in the Washington / Baltimore area carry out social justice projects.

Upcoming collections:

- March 1: American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)
- April 12 (Easter): Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- May 3: CROP Walk for Hunger

ANERA, our March recipient, helps the people of Gaza by providing medical supplies, rebuilding hospitals and clinics and creating lines of communication. ANERA is a 501 (c) 3 organization, so that donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. For more information, contact **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353.

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## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

**General Assembly, The Annual Meeting of Unitarian Universalist Congregations June 24-28, 2009, Salt Lake City, Utah**



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the

Association, directing and controlling its affairs. Voting at General Assembly is by accredited delegates from certified member congregations. Paint Branch is a certified congregation.

This year's Assembly will vote to adopt a new Statement of Conscience, [Peacemaking](#). Our congregation has had several meetings and discussions, and submitted our statements to the UUA on the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) that has led to this vote on the Statement of Conscience. There will also be considerable discussion on the latest CSAI, [Ethical Eating](#), which our Minister Phyllis Hubbell discussed in a recent sermon.

This year there will also be a UUA Presidential Election. Our President for the past eight years, Rev. Bill Sinkford, has served out his final term, and a new president of the Association must be elected.

A great deal goes on at a General Assembly. There are frequently as many as 20 seminars conducted simultaneously, and they cover every imaginable subject of interest to UUs. Be sure to get much more information at the UUA website, [www.UUA.org](http://www.UUA.org). If you plan to go, now is the time to make travel and housing reservations. The UUA reserves a block of rooms at the convention hotel, and the best go first. If you have any interest in going, or have any questions, please contact me at 240-293-6570, or [donaulderson@yahoo.com](mailto:donaulderson@yahoo.com).

*Donald Gerson, Committee Chair*

## 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	Eleanor Coyne .	301-937-3666
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.....	Chuck Bury	301-799-2535
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.....	Rich O'Brien	301-787-5999
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.....	John Lagerquist.....	301-864-1745
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.....	Raman Pathik .....	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein (Lead) .....	301-891-2071
.....	Alice Tyler .....	301-935-5279

**–We Care Coordinator for March–  
ESTHER NICHOLS – 301-864-2068\***

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.....	Bruce Baker .....	301-589-3633
.....	Erin Washburn (Youth Assoc.)	
.....	Don Henderson.....	301-681-4033
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.....	Marilyn Pearl.....	301-805-1218
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Religious Exploration	Tina Van Pelt .....	301-927-0331
Social Action	Ethelyn Bishop .....	301-604-2113

### – GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES –

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	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
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Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl... ..	301-805-1218
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson .....	301-906-9966
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield ... ..	301-552-4330
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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
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Ushers	Esther Nichols . .....	301-864-2068
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**Deadlines for next two issues of *Branches***

**April - Friday, March 20**

**May - Monday, April 20**

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