



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

APRIL 2009

OUR SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE – all 10:00 am

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

APRIL 5

A FAITH FOR HARD TIMES

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, *Co-minister*

These are hard times economically for many in our country. College funds and retirement funds are depleted. Housing values have plummeted. This area has escaped the worst of unemployment, but that doesn't help those who are without jobs, or those who live in fear of losing theirs. Yet that which gives our lives meaning, that which gives us joy is present in hard times too. This morning, we consider what there is in our faith, our religious tradition, that sustains the spirit in the good times and the bad times too.

APRIL 12

AN EASTER AND PASSOVER OBSERVANCE

Intergenerational Service, with Flower Communion

Rev. John Manwell, *Co-minister*, Carla Miller, *Director of Religious Exploration*,
Marilyn Pearl, *Worship Associate*, Vanessa Landau, *guest speaker*, and the PBUUC Choir

As all the generations of Paint Branch join to mark the season of Easter and Passover, we recall the biblical stories of the exodus from Egypt, the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, and our memories and family traditions around these holidays. Let us reflect on what they can mean for us today, beyond these familiar customs. It is also Paint Branch's tradition to celebrate Spring on Easter Sunday, with our UU ritual of flower communion. Please bring some cut flowers to share. We have planned this service for no more than an hour and a quarter, leaving ample time for the children to share in the traditional Easter egg hunt afterwards.

APRIL 19 and APRIL 26

Look for these sermon topics to be announced in future Orders of Service

Monthly Co-minister's Article: Roots and Wings

John and I are starting to think about what we should take in our suitcases when we leave. It is that time of year for many people, wondering what the next year will bring. Uncertainty brings with it some nervousness but lots of excitement too. What will happen next year? How will our lives be different? Will we be happy with the changes?

Where is that which gives life meaning in times of change? Where are our most deeply held values? Our dreams? Our expectations for ourselves? Or, as I sometimes say, "Where is God in this?" Times of change call us to remind ourselves of the nature of the bedrock of our being, the foundation of our life. Getting in touch with these fundamentals helps us to discover how to embrace change. There are gifts in changes we encounter that can enrich our lives. Our task is to bring the best of who we are to both today and tomorrow so that we may "bless the world," as Starr King President and poet, **Rebecca Parker** has written.

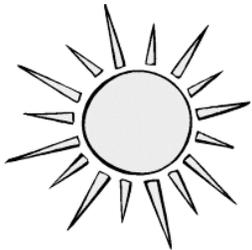
We do not yet know whether this newsletter will bring the announcement of a candidate for the settled ministry of this church. We do know that members of the Ministerial Search Committee are working long hours and searching deep within themselves to find the candidate who is the best fit for this congregation. And we also know that there are many ministers right now seeking the church that is the best fit for them.

This is an exciting time, for us and for you. May today and tomorrow bring blessings. May we spread them around.

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, Co-minister

TIME TO REGISTER FOR UU SUMMER CONFERENCES!

Some of you have fond memories of summer conferences at Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Conference (UUMAC) in north central Pennsylvania, or Murray Grove at Lanoka Harbor in New Jersey, where Universalist John Murray ship ran aground after crossing the Atlantic from England.



Others may have fond memories of more distant centers, such as The Mountain in North Carolina, Star Island off the coast of New Hampshire, or Ferry Beach in Maine. There are more than two dozen such centers across the country, all pictured at <http://www.cu2c2.org/>, with links to their own websites. They're a wonderful way to combine family vacations in a beautiful setting with the stimulating companionship of other UUs. During the summer, each center hosts a series of week-long conferences on various topics. They are less expensive than hotel-based vacations, and you'll come home with new ideas and new friendships. Now is the time to register.

As a youth, I worked for three summers at Star Island. I have also attended conferences there, at Rowe Camp in Western Massachusetts, and at The Mountain. Ten years ago Phyllis and I were ministers-of-the-week for the International Affairs Conference at Star Island; later we filled a similar role at UUMAC. All have been wonderful experiences. Talk to us about them.

Rev. John Manwell, Co-minister

WHERE IS THE BRANCHES LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY THIS MONTH??

In the interests of saving a bit more money on postage and paper, as well as keeping down the size of our newsletter, we've opted to exclude the Leadership Directory for this month. For our members, you can refer to your annual directory. For friends, you can refer to last month's edition of *Branches* or you can always contact the church office during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm, and we'll be happy to get you a contact name and number.

COVENANT PROCESS LAUNCHED

The March 14 Covenant Building Workshop considered the role of covenants in our free church tradition, as commitments that bind us together in place of theological creeds. UU facilitator **Paula Cole Jones** invited us to reflect on difficult relationships we have experienced and on how we might move toward reconciliation – both within the church and beyond it. She challenged us to see this task as an essential foundation for moving from where we are to realize our vision for what we might become as a congregation built on sustaining reconciliation. We reflected on what we might like to see in a relational covenant about how we want to be with each other. The workshop laid a foundation and offered a challenge. If the congregation chooses to pursue it with Paint Branch's new minister it will generate an ongoing conversation which is as important as a written covenant. I hope that the congregation will want to pursue it.

Rev. John Manwell, Co-minister

GREETERS NEEDED: PRIOR EXPERIENCE AS NEWCOMERS REQUIRED

Think back to the first time you visited this church and how warmly you were welcomed—or not! With that experience in mind, please consider sharing your time and talent by becoming a Membership Committee Greeter. The Membership Committee Greeter—one per Sunday—staffs the Welcome Table to help newcomers get name tags and sign our roster; direct parents to nursery care or religious education classes and personally introduces visitors to the ushers. The Greeter also remains after the service to see that visitors are engaged during coffee hour, directed to Enrichment Hour activities, bid a warm farewell and invited back as they depart. Greeters must be at church at 9:30 am and remain available for at least 15 minutes after the Service ends.

Greeters are asked to commit to one Sunday a month for three months, with re-enlistment encouraged. Orientation materials will be provided. If you're willing to give this important work a try, please contact **Tim Illig**, Chair, Membership Committee, at tillig@comcast.net or 410-707-6678 or **Carol Carter Walker** at carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net or 202-636-8138.

From the Board Chair

By the time you read this, we will be close to knowing about whom the selected minister is and when candidating week will be. I want to thank the members of the Ministerial Search Committee for all their hard work, knowing they are going to continue their efforts until the congregational vote on their ministerial candidate takes place. All MSC members have contributed well beyond what they probably expected. I know I speak for the entire congregation in saying thank you for all the work the Committee has done since last June.

I also want publically to thank the Interim Transition Team (**Julie Dahmer, Marj Donn, and Sherry Mitchell**) for their work in making this year a success not only in terms of orienting the Interim Co-ministers to our congregation but also in organizing the events essential to making this interim year more than just a time of waiting for a new minister. They took on this task not knowing all that it would entail and accepted the undertaking with efficiency and good humor.

The Board of Trustees has been addressing the issue of increasing the democratic process in its work. We want the entire congregation to have access to our work in a way that is useful to you. I solicit your thoughts on how to make that happen. Happy Spring!

Kate Brett, Chair, Board of Trustees

PARTNER CHURCH SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO TRANSYLVANIA, 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. For complete itinerary and details about this pilgrimage, go to www.uupcc.org, and under "Travel," click on "public/private trips."

Don Gerson, Denominational Affairs

Board Treasurer Report: How the Canvass Affects Our Budget



The financial work of the congregation goes on at a swift pace, as usual. The canvass, led by Paul Wester, is the most vital thing on the agenda. The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) must have input from the canvass to construct a budget for next year. The more that is pledged, the better for the budget. We MUST fund the mortgage, the utilities, the salaries etc. After that we all want vital programs with room for our growing dreams (Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team, Dedicated towards Inspiring Vitality Team, and Green Team). If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please do so as quickly as possible. It is not a legal obligation but it is a vital planning tool. If your circumstances change, you can revise your pledge, either up or down. But we need to know your present intentions to be able to put together a reasonable budget.

The budgeting process, led by **Kate Brett**, also goes on. We have heard from each committee and group within the church about what they would like to see in their budget for next year. Some groups gave us several levels of budget - "visionary," "comfort level," and "bare bones". We would love to budget at the visionary level for each group but I doubt that will be possible. How far we can go between "bare bones" and "comfort level" depends on the results of the canvass.

For the current year, we are still enjoying a surplus. That has been the general pattern over the years. Given the fact that we originally budgeted a deficit for the year, I think we will be lucky if we break even at the end of the year. And even that may be a stretch. Pledges have begun to fall behind budget, and that too is normal for this time of year. I am hopeful that those who have fallen behind will make it up before June 30. We will send out statements in early June so that you can see where you stand if you haven't kept track yourself. As always, I welcome questions about either the budget or your own pledge. Just call me at 301-572-3983.

Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer

A LEGACY OF COMMITMENT & GENEROSITY: BOB HOLLOWAY

*As we enter into a season when we consider the needs of this congregation in the coming year, this speech written by **Lowell Owens** for the October 4, 2008 memorial service of the late **Bob Holloway**, whose vision was in large part responsible for the beautiful meetinghouse we now enjoy, might be a reminder of how much a former generation gave to support this congregation. The need to support our lovely buildings is ongoing, but the beauty those buildings have added to our lives is a gift entrusted to us for our care.*

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell



It is especially fitting that Bob's memorial service is being held in this beautiful space. Especially fitting because Bob was the father of the effort that ultimately led to the design and construction of this building — a side of Bob of which not many of us are aware.

The effort began in the early '80s when the congregation was meeting in the Religious Exploration building, in the large room that later came to be known as the Rick Kelley room. We had been meeting there since the RE building opened in the mid 60s — about 20 years — and Bob had been the Music Director for most or all of that time. **Rev. Rick Kelley** was our minister, and for several years we held two services to accommodate the congregation in that limited space. The choir squeezed into one end of the room, and the congregation filled the rest. The room had wonderful acoustics for the choir and the minister — no amplification was needed — the view of the woods out of the floor-to-ceiling window wall was fantastic, and there was a real sense of intimacy. However, it was definitely crowded.

One day in about 1983, according to **Fred Teal**, he and Bob were standing in that room, and one said to the other "Wouldn't be nice if we had more space? If we had more space we could grow as a congregation." They both agreed — but it was Bob who decided to act. He called some people together and started a discussion. The small group that began meeting with Bob could not at that time conceive of proposing to build a whole new building. After all, the congregation was having trouble just meeting its operating budget. Sound familiar? Rather, the initial idea was to expand what is now the Kelley room.

They visualized a two-story addition in which the room was simply replicated outwards into the woods. The doubled version would have twice the meeting space, allowing for congregational growth, and additional office space on the lower level. In fact, Rick Kelley prepared drawings of such a scheme which received favorable comment and generated considerable enthusiasm.

However, a check with the county soon disclosed that, because the building was 20 years old, many upgrades would be required which would apply to the entire building, not just to the addition. The costs would be large and rewards meager by comparison.

What to do? Bob's committee of interested people had grown fairly large by this time, and they were in no mood to abandon the project. With encouragement from the Board and the congregation, they proceeded to explore the possibility of constructing a completely new building for the meetinghouse — as was originally planned. So, Bob led a new series of meetings, this time with the far more ambitious purpose of a new building. They realized that although the cost would be daunting, with determination they felt the congregation could do it. There followed a series of larger meetings to determine just what should be included in the new building, and still more meetings to select an architect. Visits to churches designed by the candidate architects were organized. Endless meetings. Through all of this, Bob made sure that anyone who wanted to be involved in any part of the process was included. All voices were heard. And I should remind you that during all this time, Bob was both working full time and fulfilling his role as our Music Director.

In due course, an architect was selected, preliminary designs were prepared, and finally a model of this building was built for examination by the congregation. Bob was very proud of this model. Truly, a milestone had been reached. Jeri (Jeri Holloway, wife of Bob) recalls that on one of their dates, Bob took her to the RE building and excitedly showed her the model that he helped bring to fruition.

Of course, there was money to be raised, loans to be negotiated and, finally, the actual construction. Bob was deeply involved in all of these efforts, as well. And in due course, it was done. The result is the space where we are gathered today to remember Bob. This beautiful space — a fitting monument to Bob's extraordinary service to this congregation.

Lowell Owens

Ministerial Search Committee

THE FINISH LINE

We are standing at the finish line in our search for a final candidate for minister. We have completed all our pre-candidating weekends when the potential candidates came for two days of intense interviews, luscious meals, and "neutral pulpit" sermonizing.

During this process, we had a very interesting time visiting other churches and experiencing Unitarian Universalism through the eyes of a newcomer. One church had parking spaces reserved for visitors. Another church specifically told visitors not to feel obligated to contribute when the offering was taken. We also saw lots of interesting displays of reading material, some geared to learning more about UUism, and some geared more for young families.

But when it comes to the whole worship experience, we must admit we are still very partial to Paint Branch. Nowhere else did we feel the continuity, the flow, the interaction of the various parts of the service that we get from attending our own sweet church. Those of you who know me can testify to the objectivity with which I view this matter.

But let's get back to the ministerial search process. We've got all the information about all the pre-candidates. Our next step is to choose our final candidate for presentation to the congregation. So who is our candidate?

We hope to soon reveal that information to the congregation in a mailing that will also include the dates for **Candidating Week**. During this week that runs from Saturday one weekend through Sunday the following weekend, you will have a chance to meet and interact with our candidate. You will also experience services presented by our candidate on the first and second Sunday of that "week."

Please plan to spend some time during Candidating Week discovering why we are so impressed with this candidate. Then, after the service on the second Sunday, there will be a **Congregational Meeting** during which we will vote on whether to call this candidate as our next settled minister. Whatever the outcome of the vote is, it is very important that we have a significant turnout at this meeting to determine the will of the congregation. Please plan to be there for the vote or arrange for a member to carry your proxy.



Our agenda has always been to find the ministry that is the best fit for our congregation. The members of the Ministerial Search Committee are: **Bettie Young** (co-chair), **Michael Léger** (co-chair), **John Bartoli**, **Beth Lyons**, **Rene McDonald**, **Muriel Morisey**, and **Marge Owens**. Please don't hesitate to stop one of us and ask for more information about Candidating Week. Look for the big tags with the MSC Logo. *John Bartoli*

AFGHANI ETHNIC DINNER: Mission accomplished!

Afghanistan! Some people suggested we do an Ethnic Dinner on Afghanistan! Did we dare? Would people come? What food do Afghans eat? We did; they did; we found an *entire* cookbook on Afghanistan, and it was amazing food! Thanks to all those who made this event a success and to those who purchased leftovers on Sunday. The dinner netted \$717 for Paint Branch.

The following individuals are to be thanked, with many playing numerous roles and sharing a variety of skills. All these individuals are to be heaped with gratitude for the efforts they put forth in making this dinner such a success: **Carol Carter Walker, Cathy Helmold, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson & Don Gerson, Erika Teal & Jim Dietz, Ethelyn Bishop, Iris Peabody, Jane Trout, Jean Adamson, Kathy Kearns, Lissa Bell, Marcie Washburn, Marge Owens, Marilyn Pearl, Melissa Graham & Jennifer Wright, Mike Stark, Nancy Boardman, Penny O'Brien, Peter & Criss Kovac, Raman Pathik, Sandy Roberts, and Teresa Meeks.**

Our next Dinner: This may be the only possible newsletter announcement of the May dinner, **featuring the cuisine of Chile**. Since the dates of Candidating Week are still uncertain, it has been suggested that the dinner be held *during* Candidating Week so the ministerial candidate can attend. The Ministerial Search Committee is discussing this. When Candidating Week dates have been determined, we will make our decision. To find out as soon as possible when the Chilean dinner will be held, check the calendar on PBUUC's website (www.pbuuc.org), watch the weekly bulletin announcements at church or call or e-mail **Marilyn Pearl** at **301-805-1218** or buffalo_gal@verizon.net. Finally thanks to all those who made calendar changes to accommodate the proposed date for the ethnic dinner – your efforts and sacrifices are appreciated.

Marilyn Pearl

Religious Exploration (RE) News

by Carla Miller, DRE

We want to live like trees, sycamores blazing through the sulfuric air, dappled with scars, still exuberantly budding
- Adrienne Rich

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

301-937-3666, x 2

dre@pbuuc.org

UPCOMING in RE

Sunday, March 29

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

Sunday, April 5

- Curriculum Review Team Meeting, Enrichment Hour

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 Review Team Meeting, Enrichment Hour

Monday, April 20

- RE Committee meeting, 2009-2010 Curriculum Proposal finalized

Sunday, May 10

- Baby/Child Dedication opportunity during Mother's Day service

Saturday, May 30

- Middle School Cluster Event here at PBUUC 4-8 pm

Our spring mini-unit, the Web of Life, seeks to encourage our children's development of a deeper sense of reverence for our interconnectedness to all living beings, including one another.

Our goals for the mini-unit are:

1. to deepen our spiritual connectedness to the Interconnected Web of all existence;
2. to grow our knowledge and understanding of nature and of our own physical connectedness to all life;
3. to consider how human behavior impacts the web of life;
4. to engage in some positive group actions for the earth;
5. to begin to change our own behaviors in ways that will help to sustain this beautiful world for all living beings.

Each week of our 8-week mini-unit will explore one aspect of the natural world *and* a spiritual theme found within this aspect of nature.

Each Sunday, children in grades 1-5 will gather in the Kelley Room. Following a brief gathering activity as children arrive, we will open with worship, and then break into small groups for a rotation of activities. The daily schedule is: **Worship, Activity Rotations, Snack and Closing.**

Our opening worship includes chalice lighting, stories, songs and meditation exercises based on our theme. We will light the chalice as we recite the "Earth Pledge":

I pledge allegiance to the earth and all the life which it supports. One planet in our care, irreplaceable, with sustenance and respect for all.

Our activity rotations will include outdoor experiences, science explorations and art activities. Many of our favorite outdoor activities for this unit were taken from the wonderful books *Sharing Nature with Children, Books I and II*, by Joseph Cornell. We look forward especially to spending time exploring our own beautiful woods, glen and stream together this spring! Art will lead us to deepen and express our personal connections to nature, while science allows us to explore and better understand nature's workings.

(continued on next page)

THE WEB OF LIFE: OUR SPRING MINI-UNIT IN RE

Reverence for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



This is our seventh principle, in the proposed new wording from the Commission on Appraisal of the UUA, and the focus of RE for our children and middle school youth this spring.

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Children will also participate in actions to help our planet right here at the church, a trash pickup and pulling up invasive species on our grounds. Each week we will explore a different aspect or element of nature and connect it to a spiritual theme.

The Weekly Themes of the Web of Life Mini-Unit for Children in Grades 1-8 are:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Week One | Nature theme: Me and All I See Spiritual theme: Connectedness of All |
| Week Two | Nature theme: Native Plants & Invasive Species Spiritual themes: Diversity and Belonging |
| Week Three | Nature theme: Animals as Predators and Prey Spiritual themes: Diversity, Balance, Interdependence |
| Week Four | Nature theme: Air/ Breath Spiritual themes: Nature is essential and life-sustaining. Breathing as spiritual practice |
| Week Five | Nature theme: Energy/the Sun Spiritual themes: Sources and Choices, Where our energy comes from, and where we choose to put our energies |
| Week Six | Nature theme: Water, from river to sea Spiritual Themes: Flow of Life's Journeys |
| Week Seven | Nature Theme: Earth Spiritual themes: Grounding and Memory |
| Week Eight | Nature Theme: Remembering the Interconnected Web Spiritual theme: Making Connections, Valuing and Acting |

The Web of Life Mini-Unit for Middle School Youth

The Middle School group will meet separately from the younger children for most activities. Their sessions will focus on **climate change and reducing our carbon footprints**. Their activities will include outdoor experiences and environmental action efforts for our church and in the local community, with the **Friends of Little Paint Branch**. The unit will provide serious information about our environmental issues, but will remain more faithful than fearful as our learning, based in our religious values, moves us into action.

Throughout this 8-week Religious Exploration Mini-unit, we hope that our children and middle school youth will experience their own sense of connectedness and reverence in nature, that we might open their minds to wondering about the natural world and exploring the outdoors, and that we will lead them toward the knowledge, values and actions that bring them into a meaningful and healthy relationship with the natural world.

I close this article with the closing words we will use in extinguishing the chalice throughout this spring mini-unit, as a wish and blessing for us all:

*Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet Earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.*

BABY/CHILD DEDICATION OPPORTUNITY



A baby/child dedication is being planned for Sunday, May 10, during the Mother's Day service. This ritual of welcoming is offered to children of our members, generally from birth to age 5, though exceptions may be made.

Interested parents should contact **Rev. Phyllis Hubbell** and **Rev. John Manwell** at ministers@pbuuc.org.



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

In examining racism and why it is important to take an active role in combating it, a person might start by looking at his or her own life and how it is affected by race. In my own case, I have found that the more obvious and blatant injustices are played out in news stories, and that the race issues I personally encounter on a daily basis tend to be of a subtler, more insidious nature. I know the Ku Klux Klan is still active in our country, and that racial profiling, excessive use of police force, and endless other incidents involving race occur daily. I believe, though, that racism works and survives on many levels, and sometimes it's not so clear cut. Racism hides within seemingly innocuous situations, or situations that appear too complicated to examine whether racism is even playing a factor. I think of this as one of racism's many survival techniques.



A couple of examples come to mind. I live about halfway between two grocery stores. I've always done my grocery shopping at the Giant, which is in a shopping center where the percentage of white patrons is noticeably higher

than that of the shopping center where the Safeway is located. Whenever I do go to the Safeway, I always leave wondering why I don't do my regular shopping there. I enjoy the ambience more. I've found they have better and more varied produce, there is a Starbucks in the store, shopping carts with cup holders, better child safety belts, and the list goes on. I go through this list in my head, and then sort of shrug and think, well, I'm used to the Giant. I've gotten so familiar with it. I just don't feel like adjusting to a new situation. I tell myself maybe I'll start going to the Safeway more often... but I haven't yet. I know there is a race difference, but I'm not sure if that's playing a factor, and I can explain it away by saying it's just a matter of habit that I go to the Giant. I suspect we all make decisions every day about where we do our business, and don't always examine whether race is, subconsciously or knowingly, involved in that decision-making process.

Then there was the issue of the fence. A long-disputed issue in my homeowner's association has been the desire by the board to build a fence between my community and a neighboring community. At one association meeting, a board member's speech went something like this: "They are a different community. They have a different zip code and a different police force," always stressing the word "different." My community is pretty racially diverse, but this other community has a higher percentage of African-Americans, and the fence plan came across to many people as a thinly veiled reaction to racially based fear. After all, much of the recent crime in our neighborhood involved perpetrators who lived in our community, not outside of it. So many other reasons (or excuses) for wanting the fence could be given that it is very difficult to really prove a racial connection, even if, stepping back from the situation, it seems obvious to many of those involved. The same board member once confided in me privately what a shame it was how much the neighborhood "has changed" since he moved in. Again, very subtle, but I had the distinct feeling I was being spoken to in code.

The challenge I think we all face is to notice and question these cases of hidden racism. It is too easy to settle for excuses in order to avoid uncomfortable conversations or moments of self-reflection. I hope to continue to improve my understanding and recognition of the role that race plays in my life and the lives of those around me.

Renée Katz

DARTT APRIL MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will be Tuesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1 RE Building. We'll be doing some preliminary planning for summer and fall DARTT activities. Come and bring your ideas and energy! If you have questions or want further information, please contact us at dartt@pbuuc.org

(more DARTT news next page)



contact **Lowell Owens** at lowellowens@comcast.net
or 301-345-1572.

DIVERSITY & ANTI-RACISM DIALOGUES:

Honoring the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person

The next *Diversity Dialogues*, organized by the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT), will be held on the first Sunday of April, April 5, instead of the usual second Sunday (which is Easter this year). These monthly sessions provide the opportunity for personal reflection and discussion on issues of diversity and race in our lives, our communities, our congregation, and our world. The dialogues focus on short articles, essays, speeches or books (selected in advance each month) as a starting point for deep conversation. The sessions stand alone; it is not necessary to participate every month. April's session will focus on the February speech by Attorney General **Eric Holder**, delivered to the Department of Justice for its African American History Month Program. The text of his speech may be found on the following web page at <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/speeches/2009/ag-speech-090218.html>. Also, a Washington Post article on the speech may be viewed on their website at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/20/AR2009022003643.html>. By typing into your search engine "Eric Holder Speech" you will find many more articles that present varying views on the speech. Our aim in this session is to share our personal perspectives on the speech and the issues it raises. We welcome all to join in as we engage our minds and our hearts in exploring and sharing the challenges and the opportunities of personal and collective transformation to embrace diversity in all its forms. Please contact **Cynthia Robinson** at crr@pipeline.com or **Theresa Brown Shute** at tbshute_mk@hotmail.com for more information.

ATTENTION PROSPECTIVE GARDENERS

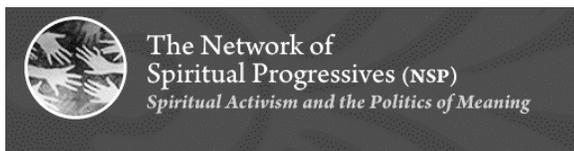


The spring burst of floral beauty is upon us. The good news for aspiring PBUUC gardeners is that it's not too late to get involved in PBUUC gardening. Opportunities include everything from helping maintain existing gardens to installing a whole new garden. To discuss the possibilities,

NETWORK OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESSIVES (NSP)

Join our next Chapter meeting Monday, April 13 at 7:30 pm in Room 1, RE Building for a video and discussion about **David Korten's** new book *Agenda for a New Economy*. He will discuss how pouring money back into the "phantom wealth" of Wall Street will not heal our economic woes. The "new economy" he envisions is locally based, community oriented, and devoted to a better life for all - not simply increasing the profits of the rich. It is a compelling agenda for our time, as we question how we should change the direction of our country.

After the video we'll focus on our varied and personal responses, as progressives and ethical persons living in the midst of changes which are affecting many of us directly and our society as a whole. Korten's two prior books are considered classics for sustainable economics: *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community* published in 2006, and *When Corporations Rule the World*, published in 2001. We hope many Paint Branch members and friends will join us for this challenging and stimulating meeting. The NSP contact at Paint Branch is **Nancy Boardman**, who can be reached at 301-982-3450.



MARYLAND UNITED FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE (MUPJ)

MUPJ's 28th Justice and Environmental Conference will be held in nearby Burtonsville on Saturday, April 4. This year's theme is Peace Means Taking Care of Ourselves, Each Other and the Earth. The **Rev. Richard Deats** will deliver the conference keynote address entitled "Yes! We Can Be the Change We Seek"; and twenty-four workshops on a wide range of topics will be offered. The registration fee is \$30 and includes a vegetarian option lunch. Scholarships are available; no one is turned away for lack of money. Conference brochures are available in the church foyer. For further information, call **Paulette Hammond** at 410-747-3811.

Ethelyn Bishop

In and Around Paint Branch

GREEN TEAM



We're on the way. We joined with ninety-five other churches which are working for Green Sanctuary status. As of the General Assembly in 2008, seventy-three congregations have already shown their commitment to the program areas of environmental justice, sustainability and spirituality to deepen our relationship with the earth.

At its March meeting, the Green Team passed a resolution encouraging each and every one of us to recycle. Our new mantra has four T's. We can give our Time, Talent, Treasure and Trash to the church. Recycling includes batteries, light bulbs, printer cartridges and more; they are worth money.

Rep. Steny Hoyer needs to hear from us to encourage his support for climate change legislation. The Green Team will sponsor a letter writing campaign on Sunday, April 26. Write to him and encourage other friends to write him on this important issue.

Green Team meetings are open to all, and its members welcome your questions. The next meeting is Sunday, April 5, 2009, during Enrichment Hour.

Penny O'Brien

ALL CHURCH RETREAT



Mark your calendars for the PBUUC All-Church Retreat to be held on August 28, 29 and 30. We will be returning to either the Hashawa Environmental Center in Carroll County Maryland or to Camp Letts near Annapolis. This retreat is for all ages. We will stay in cabins. More information will be arriving in the coming weeks. We are looking for volunteers to plan the retreat. We need to get started early on getting commitment from members and friends of the congregation, so we can make sure we have enough participants to make the Retreat a success. Please e-mail me if you and your family would like to attend and if you can volunteer any planning time. For more information contact me at cvanpeltah@aol.com.

Tina Van Pelt

CONCERTS AT PBUUC



Please mark your calendars for the following *Music at Paint Branch* concerts:

Saturday, April 11 at 6:00 pm – Michelle Howard-Hanson, Lyric Soprano will bring her *amazing* voice to Paint Branch once again, performing arias and art songs of

Mozart, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, and Massenet, as well as selections from musical theater and African-American spiritual repertoire. **David Chapman**, pianist, will accompany.

Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 pm – Heather Brown, Coloratura Soprano, will perform a concert which will include arias and art songs of Handel, Mozart, Strauss, Gounod, Debussy, and Lee Hoiby. Ms. Brown will be accompanied by **David Chapman**, pianist. This not-to-be-missed concert will also feature guest performers **Deni Foster** on flute and harpsichord and **Dick Berg** on clarinet and harpsichord.

All concerts are **free** (donations are greatly appreciated) and a reception will follow. The PBUUC Arts Council hopes you will bring yourselves, your family and your friends to enjoy these accomplished musicians in our acoustically excellent Meeting House!

THIRD WEDNESDAY HYATTSVILLE AREA UU LUNCH KLUB (TWEDHUULK)

TWedHUULK will have lunch at the Pho Vin One Vietnamese Restaurant on Wednesday, April 15 at 1:00 pm, for Vietnamese soup and other specialties. It is located near Costco at 105 Rhode Island Avenue (at the corner of Sellman Road and Rhode Island) in the Beltsville Plaza shopping center, between Papa Johns and the AT&T store. Everyone is invited. For reservations call **Larry Lates** at 301-345-6923 or **Marge Owens** at 301-345-1572. Walk-ins welcome.



ART GALLERY NEWS

Our new black and white photography exhibit is by **Harvey J. Kupferberg**, PhD, Pharm. D. and will be on display in the Meeting House from April 12 through May 10. Three of his images have won first place awards in the Washington Post's B&W competition.

Harvey tells us, "As a laboratory medical scientist who is an avid photographer, the thought processes I have used to explore scientific ideas and concepts have given me insights into the decisions I make when I am capturing visual images. Because scientific analysis requires that extraneous variables be minimized, I attempt to minimize the elements of the scenes I photograph to eliminate all but the essential components of a composition. I often distill my works into lines and curves regardless of whether I am photographing architecture or nature." He adds: "I have chosen to specialize in black and white photography because it gives me greater flexibility during the development process. Printing the pictures allows me to create emotions, change reality, while I manipulate tones. None of my prints is identical to the exact reality of the scene."

His photographs are for sale. You may contact him by e-mail at hjkupfer@verizon.net or by phone at 301-953-0167.

REMINDER ABOUT PURCHASING ART WORK

Most of the artwork displayed in the Meeting House is for sale and we do receive a 20% commission on anything that is sold. Sales are arranged between the buyer and the artist; the buyer pays the artist directly. At the end of a show the artist will send the amount of the commission to the church. The artwork remains on the walls until the end of the show unless the artist wishes to replace it with something else.

Also - *Do you know an Artist who might like to exhibit at PBUUC?* If you do please let Jane Trout know. You may call her at 301-572-2898 or e-mail jd_trout@msn.com.

Jane Trout, Arts Council

FESTIVE FRIDAY RETURNS!



The first Festive Friday of the Spring will be a fun event for friends and families on **Friday, April 3, 2009 from 6:30 – 9:30 pm**. Come to the Meeting House for a dinner of pizza, beverages, and desserts and enjoy games, puzzles, and conversation. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and **remember** to bring your favorite board game or puzzle. Cost: Adults - \$5 and children - you decide. Please call or write **Jim Flaherty** to say you're coming at 301-775-7752 or JimFlahertyLCSWC@msn.com.

CROP WALK – LAKE ARTEMESIA

Our next Special Collection will be for the Church World Service CROP WALK at 1 pm on May 3 at Lake Artemesia Natural Area Park in College Park, Maryland. CROP WALK provides food to those starving because of world catastrophes, and educates the poor of the world in how to improve their food production. When you provide a hungry man with fish, he eats that day. When you teach a man to fish, his family will eat through the year. Twenty-five percent of our donations support Help by Phone, a local non-profit organization that provides food to families with emergency needs.

Across the United States, 40 million people are classified by the United States Department of Agriculture as "food insecure". Community pantries are growing empty due to harsh economic times. You can help by donating to CROP WALK. For more information please contact **Esther Nichols**, CROP WALK Coordinator, at 301-864-2068.

Esther Nichols



PAINT BRANCH**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH****3215 POWDER MILL ROAD****ADELPHI, MD 20783-1097.****(301) 937-3666****WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG****E-MAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG** **Check here if you no longer wish to receive
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