



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE – 10:00 am

Followed by Coffee Time and then *Enrichment Hour* – small group programs 11:45 am – 12:45 pm, except as noted.

SEPTEMBER 6 HELPING EACH OTHER DURING THESE HARD TIMES

Pat Malik, Deb Rubenstein, Esther Nichols and Jonathan Mawdsley, *guest speakers*,
with Tish Hall, *Worship Associate*

Times are getting tougher right now, what with the economy in the doldrums (in addition to everything else that happens in life). How can we at PBUUC support each other? The Social Action Committee, Pastoral Care Associates, and We Care Committee will address this question. We hope to have some suggestions.

SEPTEMBER 13 ANNUAL IN-GATHERING AND WATER CEREMONY

Rev. Diane Teichert, minister, with Worship Associates, Choir and Chalice Dancers

****All ages are welcome in the Meeting House—nursery care is provided in Room 5****

What a joy it will be to gather again and welcome newcomers, among them our new Minister and new Interim Director of Religious Exploration! For the Water Ceremony, please bring a small amount of water representing a place (near or far) of meaning for you in recent months or the tears you may have shed in joy or sorrow. A pitcher will be on hand for those who didn't know, or forgot, to bring water and everyone will have the opportunity to write (please assist your child, if needed) the meaning of their water on paper provided, to be read aloud by the Worship Associates during the service.

SEPT. 20 CONFLUENCES AND BORDERS

Rev. Diane Teichert, minister, with Worship Associates

****Children's Chapel for Grades K-8 in the Kelly Room, Youth in Room 1****

Both Ramadan and Rosh Hashanah end today, reminding us of our hopes and fears about the prospects for peace between celebrants of these holy days in Palestine/Israel, echoing hopes and fears about life closer to home -- *in* our homes, congregation, communities, nation. How might these traditions offer helpful ways for us to reflect on our lives? If you grew up in one of them and have thoughts to share, please be in touch with the Minister. As we do each third Sunday of the month after the service, we will answer questions about PBUUC and UUism, and open the Membership Book to those who feel called to join the congregation.

SEPT. 27 ARE WE PEOPLE OF FAITH?

Rev. Diane Teichert, minister, with Worship Associates

****Together Time – Children and Youth begin in the Meetinghouse****

This Sunday we'll ponder what "faith" is and whether it can be "had" and ask how the diversity of theological-perspectives already present among us is playing out. We'll start with an American Buddhist, Sharon Salzberg, who says "Faith does not require a belief system, and is not necessarily connected to a deity or God, though it doesn't deny one. [Thus], faith is not a commodity we either have or don't have—it is an inner quality that unfolds as we learn to trust our own deepest experience."

*As of the newsletter deadline, rituals of installation for the Board of Trustees
and of recognition for RE teachers, Pastoral Care and Worship Associates
have not been scheduled but will likely take place in September.*

The Minister's mUUsings...

Nearly every day I used to walk with our dog Oliver along the old carriage path on the hill above the fields of the suburban farm near where we lived in Massachusetts. The seasonal changes in the fields below gave me such pleasure!

As spring familiarly approached again this year, I smelled the distribution of manure and compost, and watched the first plowing with big dark clods of dirt churning up behind the plow. I saw distinct fields emerge and then rows appear as a result of subsequent plowings. Then sheets of silver plastic were laid out on certain fields for pest management, revealing where the tomatoes and peppers would be planted later. Before long, little green seedlings were set out on other fields, probably peas first. First the farm was a quilt of mostly brown squares but by time we moved in July it was an amazing quilt of colors, brown only on the edges.

Over the years, the crops were rotated. This year, to my delight, the lettuces were planted where I could see them well from the path above! The varieties were easy to spot: Romaine, Boston, Red and Green Leaf. Each planting had three or four long rows of each variety. The most recent planting, with its tiny seedlings always looked to me like yards and yards of brown corduroy with narrow wales in red and different shades of green. Whereas the lettuce plants put in earlier, already leafed out, made for bold stripes of more green and red than brown. When harvested, I was happy to buy some lettuce, thus enjoying it twice—once in the watching and again in the eating!

As much as I loved the quilt of color, though, I loved the orderliness of the farm fields. Sure, I know that the weather and the bugs cannot be controlled, and certainly not the Canada Geese—which one year trimmed the edges of the romaine lettuce like a pair of pinking shears! But, still, the farm as seen from the path above looked so composed, so organized. The lines were straight, except where streams or dirt roads cut through at an angle. The varieties of one crop were not mixed in the rows willy-nilly; and like-crops were grouped. Everything appeared to be "just so."

Whose life is like that? Not mine. Probably I took Oliver on the exact same walk every morning because any semblance of order to my days ends after breakfast! Not that I would trade the variety, the unexpected, the serendipitous, or even the mistakes, challenges and sorrows of my life for the predictable orderliness of the farm fields.

But having observed these fields for fifteen years, I also understand that their orderliness was just what I saw from the upper carriage path. Close-up, the fields looked messier, with weeds here and there, some seedlings too crowded, and elsewhere wasted space, plus bugs and diseases too—like our lives.

And, in the same way, perhaps each of our lives has a certain shape and meaning that we do not see unless we pause from its pace to get some distance. To see the quilt pattern, not just the squares.

We gather together on Sundays to get just such a view, to see and to appreciate the shape and meaning of our lives, and to renew our energy and hope for making the changes needed, in us, in our families, congregation, communities and nation and for the earth on whose bounty we depend. So, I hope you will attend worship services regularly!

As our new ministry together starts, I am appreciating the shape and meaning of your life as a congregation, just beginning to see some of its challenges, and already learning about what makes Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church so special!

I want to get to know each of you, too, so my door is open—just email me or call the office to make a time—and I also am looking for households (including some which are child-friendly) to host a small gathering of Paint Branchers for a *simple* "get to know the new minister" occasion in the next few months—please contact me if you would enjoy doing this.

Looking forward to getting to know you, *Diane* -- minister@pbuuc.org, 301-937-3666

Notes from the Board of Trustees

At our July meeting, the PBUUC Board of Trustees discussed priority activities for the coming church year. One of our most important priorities this year is to support and strengthen the existing committees in the church. Committee chairs and committee members are among the many “unsung heroes” at Paint Branch. Our committees provide vital support to our minister and staff, and work behind the scenes to help insure that the church runs smoothly. At PBUUC, committees do everything from selecting art for the walls of the church to repairing our deck and parking lot. The back pages of this newsletter provide a list of our existing committees and the name(s) of the current chair or co-chairs for each committee. Take a moment to review this list and see if any of these committees might be of interest to you. I am sure that the committee chair or co-chairs would be delighted to hear from you.

Over the coming months, the members of the Board of Trustees will be working to make sure that each of our committees has strong leadership, has members who can assist with the work that needs to be done, and has a committee charter or “job description” that clearly defines the task(s) of the committee.

As we start a new church year, it’s important to note that several of our most important committees are currently lacking membership or leadership. I hope that you will consider committee service as a way to give back to Paint Branch. Here are a few very specific opportunities that you might want to consider:

* Do you like to garden? Are you handy with power tools? Would you be willing to spend an occasional Saturday morning helping to repair the wooden deck outside the church? If so, you really should check out the **Buildings and Grounds Committee**. **James Alexander** is the chair.

* Do you enjoy talking with people before and after services? Do you like making new friends? Do you like helping people learn more about Unitarian Universalism? If so, you ought to consider joining the **Membership Committee**. **Carol Boston** is the chair.

* Do you enjoy teaching children about Unitarian Universalism? Do you currently have children in our Religious Exploration Program? Have you ever had children in our Religious Exploration Program? If so, you may want to consider joining the **Religious Exploration Committee**. Talk to our Interim Director of Religious Exploration, **Karen Scrivo**, to find out more about this vital committee.

Jonathan Mawdsley, Board Chair

INTERIM COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Interim Committee on Ministry has begun working with Diane to promote a smooth transition, help integrate Diane into the life of the congregation and provide advice and feedback as she begins her ministry. The ICOM members will serve for six months and be followed by a permanent Committee on Ministry. The Board of Trustees appointed the ICOM members: **Bruce Baker, Michael Leger, Muriel Morisey and Marge Owens**. Let me know if you have any questions: 301-233-5361.

Muriel Morisey

START-UP WORKSHOP: SAVE THE DATE(S) FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Please set aside the evening of **Friday, October 2** for all members and friends of the congregation to work together with Rev. Diane Teichert, our new minister, Karen Lee Scrivo, our new interim Director of Religious Exploration and Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, the Joseph Priestley District Executive, to get to know each other better and to set mutual goals for the year ahead.

Congregational leaders, both current and aspiring, including RE teachers and other RE leaders are asked to come again on **Saturday, October 3** to continue this important work.

The Board of Trustees and the newly-formed Interim Committee on Ministry will be coordinating this weekend. There’ll be further information as the agenda is refined. We already know there’ll be food, fun and child care.

Religious Exploration (RE) News

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION - KAREN LEE SCRIVO

William Ellery Channing sums up well my thoughts about being a religious educator. “The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young but to stir up their own,” he said. “Not to make them see with our eyes but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own.”

I’m passionate about helping children and youth explore our rich Unitarian Universalist heritage as they search for their own spiritual paths. I welcome the chance to nurture the spiritual side of children and teens as well as help them put their faith into words and deeds as the Interim Director of Religious Exploration at PBUUC. Religious exploration, however, is not just for kids, since learning is a life-long process. We all continue to search for truth and meaning throughout our lives. So I’m also interested in helping adults on their spiritual journey and finding ways to articulate their faith.

This is my third interim DRE assignment. I just finished up an exciting two-year stint at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Columbia (Maryland). I also served as an interim DRE in my home congregation -- Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation -- in Bowie, Md. I have taken the Unitarian Universalist Association’s interim DRE training and was asked to be one of the facilitators this year. And this fall, I am entering the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, as a part-time, low-residency student.

As an Interim DRE, I’m dedicated to helping a congregation discern its unique vision for the religious exploration program and providing the resources and support to translate that vision into reality. The interim period provides a wonderful opportunity to take a step back and assess the RE program and build upon its successes, face the challenges and move in exciting new directions.



In addition to my professional experience, I bring a wealth of knowledge from my work as a RE volunteer in my home congregation Goodloe, where I’ve been a member for 20 years. Throughout that time, I’ve enjoyed creating multi-generational services and children’s chapels, teaching RE classes, advising the teen group, facilitating junior and senior high Our Whole Lives (OWL) programs and adult RE programs, organizing Coming of Age and social action events and working with teachers. I am currently a Worship Associate and chair of the Worship Committee at Goodloe.

A journalist most of my life, I have worked for The Associated Press, United Press International and National Journal as well as newspapers, magazines, television and on-line publications. I have also taught journalism to college students and writing to elementary school children and senior citizens and managed an exchange program for international journalists. I have master’s degrees in communications (American University) and international relations (George Washington University) and an American Montessori Society elementary teaching certificate.

My continuing spiritual journey has led me to incorporate journaling, walking, yoga and meditation into my life as regular spiritual practices. I also draw wisdom and solace from the words of the world’s great spiritual leaders – past and present -- and the holy books of many religions. Unitarian Universalism helps me put my faith into action while encouraging me to constantly broaden my spiritual horizons.

Like many Unitarian Universalists, I came to the denomination from somewhere else. Raised Catholic, I also attended evangelical Protestant services with my maternal grandmother and studied Eastern religions in high school and college. As an adult, I remained unchurched until my 30s when my husband, Ken Shilling, introduced me to Unitarian Universalism. I first got involved with the Bowie congregation as a youth group leader and soon realized, I had finally found my spiritual home!

So I feel honored and privileged to be invited into your church home as the Interim DRE. It is a pleasure to follow such a wonderful DRE as Carla Miller and to work with a congregation committed to interim work in religious exploration. I look forward to meeting and working with you on your spiritual journey, whatever your age and wherever the path leads. Blessed Be.

*Karen Lee Scrivo,
Interim Director of Religious Exploration*

(RE News continued on the next page)

RE OPEN HOUSE

It is the beginning of a new year in our Religious Exploration (RE) program for children and youth! Immediately following the Ingathering Service on September 13, and prior to the Involvements Fair, there will be an RE Open House. The Open House will provide parents and children an opportunity to meet Karen Lee Scrivo, our interim DRE. There will also be opportunities to meet teachers; to learn about the curricula which will be used in each class; and to meet some of our nursery childcare staff and volunteers. Parents will have the opportunity to register their children for classes and volunteer for RE activities. Snack donations will also be accepted. The suggested donation is \$20 per child or \$40 per family.

Karen Lee Scrivo

INVOLVEMENTS FAIR

The Second Annual Involvements Fair will be held Sunday, September 13 during the ingathering. The purpose of this fair is to:

1. Recruit volunteers for committees and groups,
2. Recruit members for other affinity groups,
3. Provide a networking opportunity for visitors and friends,
4. Provide information for all the exciting activities that go on at PBUUC.

During the fair, we will have tables set up around the deck (meeting house if it rains). Representatives from the various groups and committees will provide information (handouts, brochures etc) about their group and have signup sheets for volunteerism and more information. We encourage each group to provide their own edible incentives for joining the group. We envision this fair to be a fun annual ingathering activity.

Come join us for this exciting start to the new church year! For more information, please contact me at tillig@comcast.net or 410-707-6678.

Tim Illig

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE ACTION

CARING FOR PBUUC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Saturday, September 26. Save this day. We are looking for each of you to pitch in this all-church workday, when we clean inside and out. It's an intergenerational event, so bring family and friends to help!

PBUUC RECYCLING: County recycling services are not available for the church, so **Rene MacDonald, Paul Young, Ethelyn Bishop** and **Don Gerson** have volunteered to be responsible each week to recycle from the church. Thanks to you all.

WEB SITE: Have you visited www.PBUUC.org lately? The Green Team now has a page on the church web site that includes our Green Sanctuary Charter. Go to PBUUC.org, click on Social Action and then on Green Team and review our charter, mission and goals and keep up with current activities.

Penny O'Brien



Financial Notes

We are off to a new fiscal year. More importantly we are off to a new beginning with a new called minister and a new interim DRE. It is a wonderful time in the life of our congregation.

The new board is hard at work thinking about priorities, getting things organized for the new church year and bringing the new members up to speed on current issues. I am impressed with their diligence, their caring and their sense of commitment. We are indeed fortunate to have each of them.

We start the year with a tight budget. It includes, by necessity, almost \$5,000 to pay for Diane's move to Maryland and to pay for an Installation ceremony sometime during the year. (Note: I have attended a number of installations at other congregations and I can tell you that it is a beautiful and inspiring service. Be sure to attend when we have our service for Diane.)

Our expenses are also reduced by the fact that Diane takes her health insurance through her husband's employment and thus we do not need to pay our share of this cost.

The budget also includes the first full year of the refinanced mortgage. Under this mortgage, monthly payments are \$800 less than the old mortgage. And the best part is that we got a fixed rate through to the final payment rather than the balloon payments under the old mortgage. And there is no penalty for prepayment. Nevertheless, payments this year will be \$3,500 more than last year. This is because when we refinanced the mortgage last year we were able to skip one entire payment. Last year we paid off \$23,987.97 of the mortgage principal. This year we will pay off even more. We will be debt free 11 years from this fall.

In the meantime we are very dependent on the Montessori School or some alternative source for significant income. This year the school will pay us rent of \$69,380. This offsets our mortgage payments plus about \$9,000 more. In addition they pay a portion of the RE building utility costs and the full cost of the property taxes. (Property taxes are levied because we rent to a profit making organization, so it is fitting that they cover that cost in full.)

We have come a long way in recent years. The congregation has met the challenges of the fire, losing long time ministers and calling a new settled minister. We are a strong community, ready and happy to include others who are looking for what we are. Thanks to each and every one of you for making this a wonderful religious home.

P.S. If you are a member or a chair of a committee and you don't know how much money your group ended up with in the budget, just send me a note and I'll let you know. ellencotts@comcast.net

Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer

AUCTION 2009 – THE START OF A YEAR OF COMMUNITY BUILDING

The theme for the 2009 PBUUC Auction is “A Year of Community Building.” This is a great time to focus on strengthening our PBUUC community and the auction is a great way to start. The auction builds community in many ways: We get together for the fun of the silent and live auctions, we share a community meal, and we enjoy the talents of our community in the live auction entertainment. The services and dinners and other items we donate and buy bring us together again and again during the year. And of course, the income generated by the auction goes directly to the general fund where it supports all of our community activities.

Auction donation forms will be available to pick up at church and download from the website before the end of this month. Now is the time to start planning for your donations to the auction. Is there something that you can do that brings people together? Is there something that you can donate to support our general fund? We are looking for services, meals, outings, tickets and fine collectables, but not yard-sale items.

Strong communities have strong shared leadership for their community activities, and the Fall Auction is no exception. We still need people to work on the auction committee with **Jan Montville**, and Jan needs a co-chair. A committee of four to six people can pull this auction together in fine style. We also need a group within the congregation to provide the Auction Dinner. This dinner can be catered or home-cooked and if home-cooked it is an excellent fund-raiser. The group that provides the dinner splits the net income with the auction. If you'd like to be on the Auction Committee or are interested in providing the auction dinner, contact Jan at 301-464-6298 or jan.montville@verizon.net.

Social Action Committee News

The umbrella **SAC Committee** will meet on Saturday, September 12, from 10 am to 12 noon in the Kelley Room. We will be putting the last items together for the Involvements Fair the next day, Sunday, September 13. Everyone is invited to help set our agenda for this year. The preparations for State General Assembly need prioritizing. If you have a suggestion for the issues Paint Branch should take action on, send an email to **Marge Owens** (lowellowens@comcast.net) or **Marj Donn** (marjdonn6@mindspring.com), or phone either of us or any member of the core group identified on this page.

UUs for Social Justice will hold their annual Social Justice Awards Gala on Sunday, October 25, at 5:30 pm at Positano Ristorante in Bethesda. Tickets are \$80 for a 4-course dinner and these contributions will go to the UUSJ Collaborative Fund. Contact **Rev. Cynthia Snavelly** at info@uusj.org or 301-588-1951 to register or ask for details. A group from Paint Branch will attend, as we did last year. Twenty individuals and congregations were nominated this year for amazing feats of faith and justice, especially those that involved collaborating with other community organizations. Come and hear their stories and celebrate their successes. **Emma Sue Gerson** is the member of the UUSJ Board from PBUUC. She can be contacted at emmagainesgerson@yahoo.com or 240-293-6570.

The OpenDoor Housing Fund, successor to the Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corp., announces that it is working harder than ever in the Washington area to help families keep their homes and tenant associations achieve standing to prevent developers' bankruptcies affecting their renovation projects. About six years ago Paint Branch made a loan to OpenDoor (then UUAHC) of \$80,000 – the bulk of the remaining funds from the Frank Roland bequest to our church for the purpose of helping people in dire need of housing. Many members of PBUUC have made contributions and/or loans to the organization. For more information you may contact our member, **Ken Montville**, who is a member of the UU Interfaith Advisory Committee to OpenDoor, at ken.montville@mindspring.com or **Kathy Latulippe** at 301-588-5533, or go to www.opendoorhousingfund.org.

The **Special Collection for Food and Friends** on August 9 brought in \$530. This organization, which has worked for many years delivering food and friendship to people with HIV/AIDS or cancer, serves more than 1,400 people living in DC, parts of Virginia, and seven counties in Maryland. All work is done by volunteers and there is no fee to those served.

Esther Nichols, is the contact person for all PBUUC efforts involving food for those in need. She organizes a group who cook and serve a hot noon meal at the First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville for about 100 hungry people the fourth Tuesday every month. New volunteers are needed at this time, as regulars or as substitutes when others are out of town. Esther can be reached at 301-864-2068

September's Special Collection will go to the Anacostia Watershed Society. This watchdog group tests the water quality of various tributaries of the river systems in our area. (We have tested our Paint Branch stream from time to time.) The AWS organizes and publicizes the need for periodic clean-ups of streams by volunteers. Area newspapers often carry photos of the mounds of trash and old tires and even mattresses and large appliances dumped in the small waterways. **Jennifer Robinson**, chair of the Green Team, can be reached at jlrobinson720@yahoo.com or 301-906-9966.

PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will hold their annual Gala on Saturday, October 10 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H St. NW, DC. A group from Paint Branch may go together. Contact **Tish Hall** (lbhall@comcast.net or 301-681-1457) for info. PFLAG has sponsored a parents' and a Trans-persons' support group, concurrently, at Cedar Lane UU Church for many years on the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm. Legislation which was passed in Annapolis and signed by Gov. O'Malley giving domestic partners of State employees the right to inherit certain assets went into effect July 1. An inch of progress--but we need to celebrate every inch.

Health Care Town Hall Meeting at River Road UU Congregation, Sun. Sept. 20 (see notice on p. 9). Featured will be a discussion of the bills which are being considered at the time of this meeting. **Rene McDonald** has been keeping an eye on on this issue for some years. She can be reached at rmopal@verizon.net or on 301-779-1643.

**2009 JOSEPH PRIESTLY DISTRICT
REGIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD
WINNERS ANNOUNCED.
GALA EVENT TO CELEBRATE THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS!**



An annual recognition dinner and ceremony, co-sponsored by UUs for Social Justice and OpenDoor Housing Fund (see page 7 to find out more about OpenDoor) will be held at 5:30 pm on Sunday, October 25 at the Positano

Ristorante Italiano in Bethesda. There are a total of ten congregations and twenty nominations representing amazing feats of faith and justice in our region. We commend our winners and all our nominees. We hope you will join us in celebrating these leaders and in hearing their inspiring stories: Here is the list of awards and their winners:

Collaborative Program Award - Children in the Fields Committee, River Road UU Congregation

Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer (GLBTQ) Award - Joan Darrah, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

Giraffe Award (for stretching his/her capacity for social justice over a long period of time and for sticking his/her neck out for others) - John and Chris Sutton, UU Church of Arlington

Economic Justice Award - Ending Global Poverty Task Force, UU Congregation of Fairfax

Youth Award - YRUU Class of 2009, UU Congregation of Columbia

UU Interfaith Affordable Housing Award – Larry Platt, K&L Gates, for 20 years of pro bono legal work

Please contact **Rev. Cynthia Snavelly** at info@uusj.org or 301-588-1951, to purchase tickets, which are priced at \$80.00 for a 4-course dinner. This Second Annual Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala goes to the UUSJ Collaborative Fund. Go to uusj.org for details.

UU TECH SUMMIT – SAT., SEPT. 26

This summit will take place at Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Topics covered may include: Social Networking and Blogging, Website Management, Website Coordination and Design, Web-based Pastoral Care, Content Development, and Internet Evangelism.

Plus, learn how you can prepare for the JPD Google Adwords Marketing Campaign. Child care available if needed. Details about registration, workshops, meals, and workshop leaders will be available on the JPD website at www.jpduua.org or you can contact Cedar Lane at 301-493-8300.

Marge Owens

**Town Hall Meeting on
“Reaching for Health Care Reform”
Sunday, September 20 from 4 - 6 pm
River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
6301 River Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20817**

Plan to attend this informative program sponsored by Montgomery Health Care Action (MHCA), a pro-reform organization, and co-sponsored by the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland plus other organizations. MHCA plans to bring together many interested citizens for a public discussion with well-known experts. If you have questions, please contact: healthcare@uulmmd.org – OR - mhca at www.ruuu.org/healthcare – OR – Virginia at [<vmr9202@comcast.net>](mailto:vmr9202@comcast.net)

**A PAINLESS WAY TO INCREASE
INCOME AT PAINT BRANCH**

Buy Scrip! What is this “scrip” sold each Sunday in the foyer after church? It is a gift card, and when you buy it and use it to buy groceries, you pay no more for your groceries or prescriptions than using cash at the grocery store. The church on the other hand buys the cards in bulk and receives a discount. Last year we made \$2376 from scrip sales.

According to the budget that was adopted after the Annual Meeting, we are not expecting to receive enough income to cover all of the expenses we will have. Your buying scrip will increase the income to the church without increasing our own expenditures. If you would like further information, contact **John Bartoli** at 301 441-2516 or john.bartoli@verizon.net.

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

RACIST? NOT ME, I'M A GOOD LIBERAL

Ever wonder why racism is still so alive and thriving, despite the work of so many over so long a time to right this wrong? Yes, yes, I acknowledge the many hard-won changes since I was born in 1952. Much desegregation has occurred in the Armed Forces, lunch counters, water fountains, and schools, and so on. Some would point out that we just elected a bi-racial, African-American president! Isn't that something? Yes, these things are good. But these—and more—are all things we should be able to take for granted. For me, it's a bit like an abusive partner who agrees to stop beating me up; I'm grateful, but I don't give out points for that. And that change alone isn't reason enough for me to stay in the relationship, and it doesn't mean we're done and everything's okay now.



Racism in my lifetime has seemed like a balloon that you press down on one part of; that part may look smaller, but the air has merely gone to the other part of the balloon. The air is somewhere else, but

it's still in the balloon. It looks like things have changed, but have they? One of the leaders at the UU Jubilee II antiracism workshop in August expressed my view beautifully when he said that racism hasn't really changed, it has just mutated. Mutated! Yes, I thought, that's the feeling that has nagged me for so long.

But why has it mutated instead of delivering real change? At the weekend workshop, the answer became clearer to me. Most of the antiracism work has focused on people of color: working for equal access to jobs, housing, schools, and so on. This is certainly part of the work, and so much remains to be done! But that's not the heart of the issue. My insight from the workshop is that the part of racism that has barely begun is the dismantling of white privilege, and that dismantling is the missing link that's needed to keep racism from simply mutating again.

The Jubilee II facilitators reminded us to keep our lens focused on white privilege and on white-dominated institutions, not on people of color. White people increasing their awareness of and coming to terms with white privilege is the responsibility of white people. As Jubilee II facilitator Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers said, "Part of being anti-racist is to never forget that I am white. If I don't remember that reality, I'm not trustworthy or self-aware, and I can hurt people." This is the "unpacking the invisible knapsack" of white privilege that Peggy McIntosh so aptly describes and that we've worked with in various "soul work" and antiracism trainings (see <http://www.case.edu/president/aaction/UnpackingTheKnapsack.pdf>).

At the workshop, I was stunned to hear the denial from so many of my fellow white UUs. Many understand that race is a biological illusion but fail to see that every bit of our society is racialized anyway and not color-blind. Many spent the weekend parading their "good liberal" credentials: work with underprivileged Black children in the inner city, adoption of a child of another skin color, or marriage to a person of color. For many, this appeared to mean that they weren't really white and didn't need to do anything else about the mutated racism that's alive and well today. Yet, no job, adoption, or marriage makes any white person an "honorary person of color." It doesn't erase the life-long socialization that gave whites a white identity. And it doesn't erase the continued white privilege that comes our way each day, whether we see it or not. Instead of blaming someone even more racist than we are, white liberals need to look in the mirror and take their own work to the next level.

Our new minister, **Diane Teichert**, has spoken about her first anti-racism training in 1971. One big message she got from that training is that you can't be anti-racist if you're passive about it. You must be *actively* engaged in the work of antiracism. The question isn't "what is that other white person doing to end white privilege" but what am *I* doing *now*. And we can't get off the hook by pointing to what we've already done. I identify as a radical, not a liberal, but I also need to take out my white knapsack again, make it visible to me, and unpack some more. I will gladly join my white UU liberals and other white UUs as we compare our knapsack contents and continue this essential work. I have my own blind spots, and I know that other UUs can help me see mine. Working and learning together, we'll get there.

(continued on next page)

Yes, many of us, as individuals and as a church, have done much good work in past decades to ensure gains in civil rights. But this is simply what I would demand of me and of you and of my church; I expect no less! The question is, "What are we doing today?" The DART Team's efforts of the past two years are terrific, and I hope that you, too, are engaged in this pivotal work. We cannot rest on any proverbial laurels. We who believe in freedom cannot rest, as the song by Sweet Honey in the Rock reminds us. A final message from the Jubilee II training was that if UUs change, the whole country will change. What are we waiting for? Let's make a change—*real* change.

Mary Tyrtille Rooker

DIVERSITY DIALOGUES: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

These monthly enrichment hour 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. We will be continuing the Reverberations discussion from the August 9 "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Race And Ethnicity But Were Afraid to Ask" service. The September discussion will focus on Part 1 of the service 'Differences in Appearance' - the great skit from **Tosha O'Neal** and **Ponder Rummel**.



We welcome all to join in as we engage our minds and our hearts in exploring and sharing both the challenges and the opportunities of personal and collective transformation to embrace diversity in all its forms. What do you have to share? What might you learn? Join us on a journey toward wholeness. The next Diversity Dialogue gathering will be September 20 during Enrichment Hour, starting at 11:45 a.m.

For more information, contact **Theresa Brown Shute** (tbshute@gmail.com or 301-455-8418) or **Cynthia Robinson** (crr@pipeline.com).

Theresa Brown Shute

DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM (DARTT) MEETS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

All are welcome at the DARTT meeting Tuesday, September 1, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1, Religious Exploration Building. DARTT meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan activities for personal and institutional transformation. This is your opportunity to bring new energy and ideas to the group. This meeting will focus on planning follow-ups to the DARTT August 9 Worship Service, the Goodloe Memorial Celebration, a Kwanzaa Service, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Service, Ysaye Barnwell Vocal Workshop, new Diversity Dialogue topics, new Journey Toward Wholeness films and an Adult Religious Exploration activity for Fall/Winter.

Carol Carter Walker, Co-chair

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As we look forward to taking the internal steps to become more openly multi-cultural, multi-racial, I hope that participation in activities sponsored by our Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will continue to increase. I see our self-education around what it means to have grown up in the racialized culture of our country as a key to being ready. Much like the series of workshops on homophobia and GLBT concerns presented before the vote to become a Welcoming Congregation, DARTT activities give us the opportunity to take a counter-cultural, justice-seeking look at cultural assumptions and institutional practices around race and racism.

Along those lines, I was excited to be able to attend the recent Jubilee (anti-racism) Workshop sponsored by the Joseph Priestley District (our regional organization within the Unitarian Universalist Association) and was very proud that we had a delegation of six that included two Board of Trustees members (**Peter Wathen-Dunn** and **Carol Carter Walker**), as well as **Tricia Most**, **Mary "Tyrtille" Rooker**, **Marge Owens** and myself.



THE STORY OF OUR PIANO

PBUUC's beautiful Mason & Hamlin grand piano is currently undergoing critical and extensive renovations, financed by the generous donations of those who value this beautiful instrument. Below is a brief history of our piano, excerpted from John Bartoli's presentation at the June fundraising choir concert.

Henry Mason, a pianist, and Emmons Hamlin, an inventor, formed a company in 1854 that would eventually produce pianos of such high quality that they were endorsed by such great virtuosos as Sergei Rachmaninoff and Maurice Ravel. While the company endured many challenging times over the course of the last century, Gary and Kirk Burgett, two lifelong fans of Mason & Hamlin pianos, ultimately bought the company in a bankruptcy sale and continued to manufacture the pianos, retaining many of the important original features, designs, and quality.

Our own piano, the Model CC Concert Grand, was made in 1906. It is 9'4" deep, weighs 1400 pounds, and is made of hard rock maple. One of its many innovations in design is the Tension Resonator, a remarkable device that maintains the crown of the soundboard for the life of the instrument. The soundboard is like a wooden speaker that amplifies the vibration of the strings--it is the very heart of the piano. The most significant and expensive part of the renovation of our piano is the replacement of the soundboard.

We know our piano was sold December 22, 1908 and shipped to London, England, but we find no further trace of it until the late 1980s. At this time then-Music Director Bob Holloway and other Paint Branch members were envisioning a building design for our Meeting House that would have great acoustics for which a concert grand piano could find a fitting home.

The choir decided that fulfilling Bob's dream would be an extremely appropriate way to celebrate his 20th anniversary as our music director, so they sent out letters to the congregation asking for donations and hosted three elegant, 5-course fundraising dinners with musical entertainment.

At about the same time, Jim Weston and his wife Isabel, both members of the church and knowledgeable about pianos, spotted what they thought was a promising instrument at Schaeffer's Piano in Silver Spring. Bob, along with Al Herling, a founding member and fine pianist himself, and Michael Travis, a piano technician living in Greenbelt, went to look at the instrument. They fell in love with it and immediately put down the \$1,000 deposit. The \$10,000 asking price was a steal in 1991, considering the piano is worth much more (The list price for a new Mason & Hamlin piano today is over \$100,000).

By the time the Meeting House opened, the full amount had been raised and the piano purchased and delivered. The piano was dedicated to Bob Holloway for his many years of service as Music Director, and Bob joked that the *one* thing we had that was now paid for in full was this piano.

This piano has stood in the front of the Meeting House in the midst of every musical performance for the past 18 years - whether it was a Sunday service, concert, wedding, memorial service or choir rehearsal. The piano has embodied the very heart of Paint Branch itself. It symbolizes our congregation's dedication to the art of music and stands as a memorial to the people who have come before like Bob Holloway, and the people who continue to maintain and preserve that high standard, like our current music director, David Chapman.

The renovation underway is a time-consuming and difficult job. Only a few companies in the world can do it properly for this particular piano. When it is done, we will have a new piano, good for *another* 103 years!

PBUUC Arts Council

In and Around Paint Branch

A BIG "BAG" THANK YOU!!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee (BAG) would like to thank the following individuals for giving their time and sweat on August 15 to spreading woodchips on the playground and other parts of the PBUUC grounds: **Lowell Owens, Ron Cotts, Paul Young, John Bartoli, Will Snyder, Mark Shute, Alex Noury, and Mike McMenamin.** Your efforts to improve the safety and appearance of the PBUUC grounds are greatly appreciated! Thank you! If you'd like to give back to your congregation through BAG activities, please contact committee chair **James Alexander** (jtallexander40@yahoo.com; 301-277-3211)

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

Do you enjoy playing golf? Does your golf game deserve compassion even though you are a hacker? Do you get down on your knees and pray while you line up a putt on Mother Nature's beautiful greens? If you enjoy the game of golf as much as Tim Illig, then join him in being the charter members of the PBUUC Golf Club. Tim is looking to play golf on the second Saturday of the month, starting Saturday, September 12, 9:00 am at Paint Branch Golf Course, which is on University Boulevard. This nine hole course is the easiest course around so golfers of all abilities are welcome to join us. Who knows, if there is interest, we could rotate courses each month. Please RSVP to **Tim Illig** at tillig@comcast.net or 410-707-6678 so we can start the PBUUC Golf Club list.

TWedHUULK ON THE CUTTING EDGE

A brand new restaurant has opened on Greenbelt Road, in the Beltway Plaza Center. "William's – An American Bistro" has taken the spot vacated by Bennigans. The Third Wednesday Hyattsville Unitarian Universalist Lunch Klub (TWedHUULK) will meet there on Wednesday, September 16 at 1:00 pm and we will have a rather private space. The prices are reasonable, the menu is appealing, and the conversation is usually the main course.

Everyone is invited! If you are able to come, contact **Marge Owens** at lowellowens@comcast.net or 301-345-1572, or call **Larry Lates** on 301-345-6923.

UPCOMING CONCERTS AT PBUUC

The Arts Council is pleased to announce the concerts scheduled so far in our 2009-10 season. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy these outstanding, free concerts in our beautiful, acoustically excellent Meeting House and stay for the receptions after.

PIANO GALA ~ (Date TBD)

To celebrate the return of our restored Mason & Hamlin concert grand piano and thank the generous contributors to the Piano Restoration Fund, the Arts Council will present a gala concert featuring four pianists, including our own Music Director, **David Chapman**. The concert date will be set when we know the anticipated date of our piano's return to the Meeting House.

GO FOR BAROQUE ~ Sunday, October 25 at 4 pm.

This *Music at Paint Branch* concert will feature pianist and PBUUC member **Deni Foster**, clarinetist **Dick Berg**, and soprano **Heather Brown**. Paint Branchers have thoroughly enjoyed previous concerts by this ensemble.

THOMAS PANDOLFI ~ Sunday, November 8 at 4 pm.

Another in the *Music at Paint Branch* series, this concert will feature the brilliant concert pianist (and former PBUUC pianist/accompanist), **Thomas Pandolfi**.

AUDREY ANDRIST and JAMES STERN ~ Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 4 pm.

Pianist Audrey Andrist and her husband, violinist James Stern, will perform a *Music at Paint Branch* concert.

Julie Dahmer, PBUUC Arts Council

PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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ESTHER NICHOLS - 301-864-2068

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