



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 AM

*Services are followed by Fellowship
and then Enrichment Hour from 11:45 am-12:45 pm for which child care is provided.*

NOTE SOMETHING NEW: *This year, children and youth will join us in the Meetinghouse for the first fifteen minutes of every service before going to their RE program, except on All Ages Sundays when they remain in the Meetinghouse for the entire service. As in the past, Nursery care is provided in Room 5 every Sunday.*

SEPTEMBER 5

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

with Leo Jones and Abby Crowley, Worship Associate

This service will conclude this year's Summer Service Series.

SEPTEMBER 12

WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE FEAST? ANNUAL INGATHERING ALL AGES CELEBRATION

*Rev. Diane Teichert and Karen Lee Scrivo, Interim Director of Religious Exploration,
with the Worship Associates, Festive Prelude, the Choir and Chalice Dancers*

Nursery care is provided in Room 5

A village elder offers a feast in celebration of a good harvest but something goes awry at the feast, with parts (and lessons) for all. To prepare, please bring either fresh produce if you have a garden, or a non-perishable canned good, and a small amount of water representing what was meaningful for you this summer – a sacred place (near or far) or tears of joy or sorrow. Everyone will have the opportunity to write the meaning of their water on paper provided, to be displayed after the service. Visit the Involvements Fair after the service to learn about PBUUC activities this year – no Enrichment Hour today.

SEPTEMBER 19

ON PURPOSE

Rev. Diane Teichert with the Worship Associates

Children start in Meetinghouse then go to first day of Religious Exploration classes

Life can be joyful and fulfilling when lived with purpose and meaning. Yet, for many people, the search for life's purpose is elusive, at best. Going through life on auto-pilot, striving to meet other's expectations, can be frustrating and depressing. Yet, there is no clear cut path to finding one's purpose/passion/bliss. Or is there? This is the 2009 Auction Sermon won by Ken Montville and the first in a three-part series "Unitarian Universalism Today."

SEPTEMBER 26

ON MOVEMENT

Rev. Diane Teichert, minister, with the Worship Associates and the Choir

Our historic values are freedom of conscience, affirmation of diversity, and use of reason from the Unitarian side of the family and, from the Universalists, universal love the power of which is transforming. If, as we say, ours is a "living tradition," then how are these traditional values moving us forward? Second in the series "UUism Today." In honor of Association Sunday, a special collection will be taken for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, of which PBUUC is a member.

*Visitors are welcomed every Sunday, of course, but the services in September and October
will be especially appropriate for the co-worker, neighbor or friend you invite!*

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The Minister's mUUsings...

Last spring I phoned the home of a new family with young children. They had attended PBUUC fairly often in the winter and seemed right at home, but then stopped coming. I was curious as to why. The mother shared with me that it was *not* because the services were meaningless and uninspiring or that the congregation was unfriendly. Mainly, they'd been out of town for a few weeks and then passed an illness around, and so they got out of the habit of going to church on Sunday mornings. I said I understood how hard it is, especially for parents with young children, to give up a weekend morning at home when weekdays are so pressured. But, she continued, saying kindly, "There was a deterrent, though, and I may as well tell you. At your church, every Sunday was different. We as parents didn't know what to expect, so how could we prepare our children? Would they be sitting with us in the Meetinghouse? Or, should we take them to the RE Building? And if the latter, was it for classes, activities, or what?? So, in addition to our own reasons for irregular attendance, the unpredictability at your church was an obstacle for us."

When PBUUC staff began to plan for the coming year, I relayed that phone conversation. Also, I reported that for my first year at PBUUC, I felt something sacred was missing when our young people weren't present in the Meetinghouse. And, if weekly worship is the one defining common experience in our faith community, and if children are as welcome and as important as adults to us, then they need to be a part of that common experience. Finally, we discussed how, in contrast to American culture which tends to segregate people by age, congregational life uniquely offers the possibility of rich multi-generational relationships which will be more readily formed if adults and young people see each other on Sundays!



Therefore, and with the support of the Worship Associates, children will join adults in the Meetinghouse for the first fifteen minutes of the worship service (except on All Ages Sundays when they are in the Meetinghouse for the entire service). We will plan the beginning of the service with the presence of the children in mind. We think many adults will appreciate the changes, too. It's not only children who get fidgety when the announcements run long.

"Life is change," they say. Change for purposes dear to our hearts can be refreshing. There will be bumps along the way, but the values underlying this change will carry us over the bumps, I'm sure.

As Unitarian Universalist minister Erika Hewitt writes in her new book (which was on my summer reading list), "Families need and deserve shared worship they can experience together, take home, talk about, and learn from."

Looking forward to seeing you on Sundays starting September 12th.

Diane

Diane

P.S. - Religious Exploration for Adults... I plan to offer a class starting in October, "Living by Heart: A Guide to Spiritual Practices for Unitarian Universalists." If you have been meaning to begin a daily routine that centers you, but find it hard to get started or continue, or if you have one and would enjoy sharing that journey with other PBUUC'ers, this may be the class for you! Please let me know of your interest. Call, email, or make an appointment to meet with me in my office, near where you work on your lunch hour, at home, or at a local coffee shop.

Notes from the Board Co-Chairs

THE IMPORTANCE – AND BENEFITS – OF BEING A VOLUNTEER

Having served on the Board of Trustees for the past year, I've gotten a much better perspective on volunteers and our church: how much our church depends on them, how challenging it can be to recruit them, and how much more meaningful each person's experience at Paint Branch can be when they get involved!

Volunteers at PBUUC teach religious education, mentor our youth, serve as worship associates, prepare lay services, sing in the choir, perform special music at services, prepare the coffee after the service, maintain the buildings and the deck, help in the office, do the spring and fall cleaning, and so much more.

Committees like the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT), the Green Team, Social Action, and We Care, lead us in living our UU principles. Other committees like Finance, Personnel, and the Board of Trustees ensure that our church functions as a responsible organization.

Most recently, two ad hoc committees helped to ensure a smooth move-out by our long-term tenant and prepare the RE building for full occupation by the church. Another ad hoc committee, the DRE Search Committee, is just getting underway and will be active for much of the next year.

Does this sound like an army volunteers? You bet it does! And recruiting people for all these activities, especially the chair-person positions, can be really difficult. Recently, one of our Board members asked 18 different people to chair an ad hoc committee before finding someone who said "yes." Why was it so tough? I've heard that people fear they'll be "stuck doing all the work" if they volunteer to lead.

So why should you volunteer? Because that's where the community is! Meeting with other people for a purpose and sharing your passions with others build the relationships that add richness to everything we do at Paint Branch. Attending services is intellectually challenging and spiritually fulfilling, and chatting with acquaintances at coffee hour is pleasant, but working together toward a goal is a great way to get to know each other, and when we know each other, everything we do together is more meaningful.

How should you volunteer? Pick a volunteer role that aligns with one of your passions, because that's what you'll do best. You like to work with children? You want to make a difference in the political process? You like to care for people in their time of need? You want the church to operate well? You like to make music? You enjoy carpentry or handcrafts? There's something for everyone! And if we all make an effort to volunteer a little more, we'll have enough people involved so that leaders don't get "stuck".

See you in church!

Bettie M. Young

Bettie Young



Religious Exploration News

A WHOLE NEW WORLD IN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION THIS YEAR

Everything we do is faith development.

All we teach is Unitarian Universalism.

The congregation is the curriculum.

Connie Goodbread and Rev. Susan Smith

It always helps to start with the end in mind. Given that, one of the things that the Religious Exploration Committee and I considered when planning this year's program was a stick figure drawn during last February's RE Workshop by Pat Infante, then Faith Development consultant for the Joseph Priestley District. Next to the figure were the qualities and characteristics that workshop participants wanted a young adult who had been through our RE program to possess.

They included – among other things: joy, finding meaning in life, enjoying diversity, inspiration, a sense of community, acceptance of others, a UU identity, knowledgeable about other religions, self-confidence, being an activist, accepting of different sexual orientations, races, classes, religious beliefs and points of view, tolerant, and being leader.

“These are characteristics we all aspire to,” Ms. Infante noted. “If we're not working on these things in our RE programs then we're missing opportunities! Working toward living our 7 principles is interdependent with growth.” (Ms. Infante has since moved on to become the Unitarian Universalist Association's Central Regional Group's Faith Development consultant.)

So these were things the RE Committee and I kept in mind when planning this year's program. We settled on five themes that our RE program will be focusing on throughout this year. They include: Unitarian Universalist Identity, Gifts of the Spirit, Our Judeo-Christian Heritage, Our 7th Principle, and Living in Multi-Cultural World. We also hope this will encourage more people to share their time and talent with our children and youth and better accommodate their other church commitments and busy lives.

Another thing that came out of the RE Workshop was the desire to strengthen multi-generational ties within the church and bridge the gap some saw between the Meeting House and the Religious Exploration Building.

To that end, the RE Committee and I will be working with Rev. Diane Teichert and congregational leaders, committees and others on ways that we can weave these themes into worship, Enrichment Hour, social action and multi-generational activities.

We'll begin the year with an introduction to Unitarian Universalism. In our RE classes, we'll be looking at our Seven Principles and UU heroes. And Rev. Diane Teichert will be preaching about our UU roots in her first couple of sermons.

In addition, there will be a Chalice-Making Workshop during Enrichment Hour that will also include worship activities to incorporate into our lives at home. And we hope to include a social action project spearheaded by our children and youth.

During the Winter Holidays, we will be focusing on Gifts of the Spirit such as love, forgiveness, kindness, helping others, friends and family and acceptance. In our RE classes and worship, we'll find ways to share these gifts with others.

Children and youth will also be working on a social action project and participating in winter holiday activities. We're also hoping to offer an Enrichment Hour workshop on how to enjoy a less commercial and stressful and more spiritual holiday season.

In January and February, Bible stories will be our theme. We will draw from several curricula including Bible Super Heroes for younger children and Bibleodean for upper elementary. Both are interactive programs in which students bring to life well-known tales from the Hebrew and Christian Bibles.

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We hope to offer an interactive Bible storytelling workshop during Enrichment Hour. Children will also have a chance to learn about homelessness and make a welcome gift for the homeless who will be staying at the church during Warm Nights in January. And middle and high school youth will have the opportunity to prepare and serve food for our guests.

In March and April, we will be considering our 7th UU Principle: the Interdependent Web of Life. Our RE classes will include Native American stories, environmental and gardening activities and they will be participating in an Earth Day worship service. We will draw from several curricula including Keepers of the Earth, Journey for the Planet: Creating an Earth-Friendly Life, and Web of Life as well as Gather the Spirit, a multi-generational program that focuses on access to clean water.

As part of our earth-based efforts, we're looking into ways children, youth and adults participate in the local Streamkeepers Project as well as creating gardens and hiking on our beautiful wooded property.

In May and June, we will be focusing on welcoming those different than ourselves and celebrating the differences that make for a richer world. We will be drawing on resources from the Unitarian Universalist Association, Teaching Tolerance, the Southern Poverty Law Fund's educational program as well as the World Religions Culture Tour. We also plan to have a social action project for children and their families.

I hope you'll be a part of this exciting year for Religious Exploration at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, whether or not you have children or youth in the program. It takes a congregation to help grow our children and youth.

Karen Lee Scrivo,

Interim Director of Religious Exploration

2010-2011 RE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nursery – Our youngest children can play and form trusting relationships with our paid child care providers and volunteer assistants.

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Preschool – Ages 3-5: Chalice Children

This year-long program helps young children learn about their church. Children gain a sense of belonging to PBUUC and the Unitarian Universalist faith through concrete experiences with its people and places. The morning starts with a “call to worship” and getting to know each other and includes activities such as making a chalice, touring the church and meeting its leaders, games, rhymes and other activities.

Lower and Upper Elementary (LE / UE)

- A. ***UU Identity (September - mid November)***: We will be drawing from several curricula including We Believe: Living and Learning Our Seven Principles, and UU Superheroes (Lower Elementary), and Spirit of Adventure (Upper Elementary), an action-packed program that looks at the contributions UUs have made in science, arts, sports, and many other fields.
- B. ***Gifts of the Spirit (December)***: Curricula include: Wonderful Welcome (LE) and Love Connects Us (UE), both part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Tapestry of Faith. We will be exploring generosity, love, forgiveness, kindness, helping others, friends and family, and acceptance. Children will also be working on a social action project and participating in winter holiday activities.
- C. ***Our Judeo-Christian Heritage (January - February)***: Bible stories will be the focus on this period. We will draw from several curricula including Bible Super Heroes (LE) and Bibleodean (UE). Both are interactive programs in which students bring to life familiar tales from the Hebrew and Christian bibles. Children will also have a chance to learn about homeless and make a welcome gift for the homeless who will be staying at the church during Warm Nights,
- D. ***Our 7th Principle: Caring for the Earth (March-April)***: We will be considering the interdependent web of life during this session and drawing from several multiage curriculums. They include Keepers of the Earth: Native American stories and environmental activities; Journey for the Planet: Creating an Earth-Friendly Life; and Gather the Spirit, a multi-generational program that focuses on access to clean water. *(continued next page)*

We are hoping to have children, youth and adults participate in the local streamkeepers project as well as creating gardens and hiking on our beautiful wooded property.

- E. ***Living in a Multi-Cultural World (May-June):***
We will be focusing on welcoming those different than ourselves and celebrating the differences that make for a richer world. We will be drawing on resources from the Unitarian Universalist Association, Teaching Tolerance, the Southern Poverty Law Fund's educational program; UUN and Me, the UU United Nations office and World Religions Culture Tour. We also plan to have a social action project for children and their families.

Middle School – Neighboring Faiths:

This year-long program introduces youth to faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in their community. In keeping with our UU Principles, particularly the free and responsible search for truth and meaning, it also invites them to explore and participate wherever possible in others' traditions as respectful guests. Leaders and participants together plan their program, determining which religious groups they want to learn about, visit and relate them to their UU heritage. Neighboring Faiths provides a number of ways for engaging youth in a religious journey that invites participation of parents, other adults and religious leaders in the congregation and the community.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) – 8th Graders and mature 7th Graders:

This year-long program, generally held Sunday afternoons, promotes sexual and emotional health and fosters meaningful dialogue among peers, partners, families and friends; we believe that comprehensive sexuality education is ministry that has profoundly and positively changed the lives of thousands of Unitarian Universalists since 1971 when the first UU sexuality curriculum was introduced. The program provides a holistic view of sexuality that addresses not only the physical, but the spiritual, emotional and cultural aspects of sexuality. It is an opportunity for students to learn about sexuality that is grounded in our religious and community values.

High School Youth Group – Grades 9-12:

Our youth, together with their adult advisors, develop a program of small group ministry, which seeks to balance community building, learning, worship, social action and leadership development. The youth group creates and leads its own service once a year, which it shares with the congregation. Youth also participate in the church's social action/justice projects and attend selected worship services. A Senior High OWL will be offered Sunday afternoons beginning in January.

RE NOTES

The DRE Search Committee has begun its work to find the perfect person to become PBUUC's permanent Director of Religious Exploration, starting in August 2011. The committee is chaired by Marcie Washburn and includes Karin Bouis-Towe, Abby Crowley and Tabitha Pierzchala and a representative from the RE Committee. During its first meeting last month, the DRE Search Committee discussed plans for a congregational survey on religious exploration and RE leadership. The committee is also looking to add a couple more members to ensure diversity and share the work. If you're interested, contact Marcie at mlwashburn@verizon.net. For more about how to participate in this survey, please read the article on page 16.

RE Volunteers – The success of our ministry to children and youth depends on volunteers like you. There are many ways you can help including teaching or assisting, helping with Children's Worship or Together Time, leading music with children and youth, serving on the RE Committee, coordinating classroom snacks and/or parent communications, monitoring the supply room, helping with special events and projects, or sharing your special talent. Both short and longer-term commitments are welcome. For further information, contact Interim DRE Karen Lee Scrivo at idre@pbuuc.org.

Teacher Background checks – As part of PBUUC's Safety Policy, we are resuming requiring all nursery volunteers, teachers and assistants to complete a screening form, which will be used to perform a background check through Lexis/Nexis. Individual background checks for are required every three years.

Financial Notes

Greetings from Melbourne, Florida, although by the time you read this I'll be back in Maryland (my flight is September 2).

The new fiscal year is underway. The summer months are generally not all that active financially, but so far so good. No catastrophes, no unexpected windfalls.

There are many people involved in financial work beside myself as treasurer. We have a paid bookkeeper, Rebecca Birnie, who does the detailed work needed to keep our accounts in order within QuickBooks, an accounting software program. The Board of Trustees bears ultimate responsibility for Paint Branch's finances. But as the Board has many tasks to accomplish, we also have a Finance Committee to oversee the work of the treasurer and bookkeeper, and to make recommendations to the Board on significant financial actions such as the mortgage reduction I wrote about in the August newsletter.

This is where you, the congregation, come in. Our current committee is an army of two – Liz Citrin and Dave Nation. The outgoing chair, Don Henderson, is now the Board liaison to Finance. In short, we need some new members. And while finance sounds daunting, the bookkeeper, the treasurer, and QuickBooks handle the pesky details. What a finance committee member needs is to be capable of sixth grade arithmetic, a willingness to come to one meeting a month, and sound judgment.

If you are willing and able, please contact Don Henderson, Liz Citrin, Dave Nation or myself. Also look for the finance table at the Involvements Fair on Sunday, September 12.

Mike Stark, Treasurer



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

FINDING SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

How often have you heard these disparaging remarks made about Prince George's County?

- "It's a **bad** area!"
- "It's a **poor** area."
- "It's a **predominantly minority** area." (as if this was an unfavorable quality)

On August 1, I had the pleasure of teaming up with Kweli Powell and Tricia Most to present DARTT's summer worship service titled "Significance of Place", devoted to our experiences living in Prince George's County, and exploring our role as a congregation residing in the most ethnically diverse county in the Washington DC suburbs. For me, this was a timely exercise in understanding why I remain here in spite of the barrage of negative publicity Prince George's receives from the local media. As a lifelong resident of the Hyattsville/Riverdale area, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Kweli, a relative newcomer to Prince George's County, and Tricia, who moved with her family to Upper Marlboro when she was in high school. Their shared perspectives have helped me develop a stronger appreciation for a county I've long been accustomed to hearing about in negative terms.

For a long time I hoped my adult residency here would last only until I found myself in better financial circumstances. Prince George's history of high crime statistics, a police force notorious for use of excessive force, and a school system which doesn't always address the unique needs of its students contributed to my desire to leave as soon as possible. But the life of a freelance musician does not always lend itself to financial prosperity. Even if we could afford to leave, we would not be able to find the idyllic scenario we like to fantasize about in some other place. We'd simply trade one set of problems for another, or possibly find ourselves facing the same issues elsewhere.

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When Tricia invited me to participate in this service, she questioned, “Could it be that internalized racism or internalized oppression is related to the disparagement of Prince George’s County?” I believe this is an important question which everyone in the greater Washington DC area would benefit from considering. It certainly would explain why other counties facing similar issues are not scrutinized as closely. If racism is to be blamed for the degradation of our county, what can we do as a congregation dedicated to the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and thus every county, to set the record straight?

A good place to begin would be to take more pride in our county’s name. Prince George’s is only one syllable longer than “Pee Gee”. It contains the same number of syllables that we locals use to pronounce the word “Montgomery”. It is one syllable shorter than Anne Arundel; and I’ve yet to hear anyone refer to our eastern neighbor as A.A. County. Saying “Prince George’s” offers a simple, yet meaningful nod of respect to the only county in the Washington area with a majority black population.

We can also build our county’s self-esteem by taking the time to get to know Prince George’s in a positive light. Our county offers *so much* to help us celebrate our rich history, cultural diversity, and natural beauty. Kweli and I visited a couple of Prince George’s gems in the last month: the Piscataway Indian Museum in the southern part of the county, near Waldorf, and Riversdale Mansion, which is only about 15 minutes from our church. A quick internet search of Prince George’s County parks and recreation will yield all kinds of interesting treasures. I highly recommend visiting one, or at least checking out the information presented online, the next time you hear another disparaging remark about Prince George’s County.

Finally, and most important of all, we can improve the image of our county by embracing its faults as well as its assets, and doing our part to create solutions. Our minister, Rev. Diane Teichert, has reached out to Principal Michael Brooks of High Point High School, to find out how Paint Branch can help support the student body and their families. Among ideas I’ve heard discussed by members of our congregation are mentoring and tutoring programs, opportunities for students to fulfill public service requirements for graduation, and possible performances at Paint Branch by young musicians.

We have to ask ourselves, “Do we live and worship where we simply take care of *ourselves*? Or do we live and worship where we can make a difference in the world around us?”

Brenda Anna

SEXISM AND RACISM ARE THEMES IN SEPTEMBER 26TH FILM SHOWING

Told from the perspective of a Latina wife, *Salt of the Earth* tells the true story of a 1951 miners’ strike for health and safety improvements in New Mexico and for Latino miners’ wage equity with Anglo workers. Although Ramon Quintero helps organize the strike, he treats his wife, Esperanza, like a second class citizen at home. When the men are forced to end their picketing by a Taft-Hartley Act injunction, the women assert their ideas at a union meeting, and proudly take their place in the picket line.

The US Government considered *Salt of the Earth* subversive and banned it, the FBI investigated its financing, and Hollywood studios blacklisted the makers of this McCarthy-era film. Only five of the many cast members were professional actors as the producers cast many union workers and locals from Grant County, New Mexico.

This September 26th extended Enrichment Hour Journey Toward Wholeness film and discussion is sponsored by the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team and will be facilitated by Tricia Most in the Kelley Room. To ensure child care, please contact dartt@pbuuc.org before Friday, September 17.

DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION (DARTT) TEAM MEETS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

All are welcome at the DARTT meeting on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:30 pm in Room 1 of the Religious Exploration Building. DARTT meets on the first Tuesday of each month, including the summer months, to plan activities for personal and institutional transformation. This is your opportunity to share feedback and new ideas. If you can’t join us, please send your input to dartt@pbuuc.org.

SUPPORT FOR CROSS-RACIAL CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

We all understand that racism is bad. Believing that only bad people have prejudices disinclines us from exploring the effects of internalized feelings of racial superiority and racial oppression. On Saturday, October 16, from 9:30 am to 4 pm, the Joseph Priestley District's 6th Annual Racial Justice Conference will focus on "Walking the Talk: Personalizing Our Journey Toward Wholeness." This conference will help us deepen our faith by focusing on the personal work we need to do to be more authentically receptive and wholly present in our congregational relationships and in our community social action. Leo Jones, the Chalice Dancers, and vocalists Jesse Crowley and Jessica Sharp will start the day with a worship service to open our hearts and minds to a day of learning and personal exploration. The keynote will feature Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris; co-author of *The Arc of the Universe is Long: Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism and the Journey from Calgary*. JPD Journey Toward Wholeness Team members will bring to you what they learned this summer at the Crossroads Advanced Anti-Racism Organizer training in Kansas City.

The registration forms can be found in the lobby or downloaded from the JPD website at <http://www.jpduua.org/>. Advance registration (before Tuesday, October 12) is \$40.00 which covers lunch, refreshments and conference materials. Please make your check payable to "JPD" with "Racial Justice Conference" on the memo line and send it to JPD, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 108, Wilmington, Delaware, 19801. The fee is \$50.00 if you pay at the door.

Rev. John Crestwell has arranged for **Bus Transport** to and from the Paint Branch parking lot. Please plan early to utilize this green transportation to and from the UU Church of Delaware County in Media, PA by contacting Rev. John Crestwell at associate@uuc-md.org. We hope to have 35 – 40 riders and anticipate a cost of \$50.00 or less depending on how many riders share the expense. Come join other UUs as we continue our personal Journeys Toward Wholeness and encourage each other on our spiritual paths. For specific questions, please contact dartt@pbuuc.org or phone Tricia Most at 301-445-2821.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (UUSJ) AWARDS PAINT BRANCH UU CHURCH'S DARTT THE JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS AWARD

UUSJ is a Unitarian Universalist partnership of congregations, organizations and individuals in the Baltimore, Washington, DC and Northern Virginia region who are committed to our religious principles of human dignity, justice and compassion for all people. UUSJ works in the Baltimore-Washington-Northern Virginia area to help UU activists carry out their social and economic justice agendas.

Four years ago, UUSJ established an annual awards program to celebrate social justice visionaries and to encourage congregations to share best social justice practices. The awards are presented at a fundraising gala.

Paint Branch has many ties to UUSJ. Rev. Barbara ten Hove, a former co-minister, was one of its founders. Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, our recent interim co-minister, received an award for her work on behalf of Equality Maryland.

The awards recognize several categories of social justice work: Minister, Lay Leader, Innovative Social Justice, Environmental Justice, Collaborative Social Justice and Journey Toward Wholeness.

This year, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team was selected as the recipient of the Journey Toward Wholeness Award.

DARTT, along with other awardees, will be honored at the Awards Gala, on Sunday, October 16, beginning at 5:30 pm at La Panetteria Restaurant, 4921 Cordell Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814. The cost of the gala is \$80 for appetizers and a three course dinner. The cost also includes monies raised to fund small grants encouraging collaboration between congregations and the community. There is a sliding scale for attendance as needed. Please contact Rev. Cynthia Snavelly at info@uusj.org or 301-588-1951 for tickets or further information. You can also contact Carol Carter Walker in person or at dartt@pbuuc.org.

Social Action Committee

Save the date for the Social Action Committee Kick-Off to start the church year, Saturday, October 2, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm in the Kelley Room. This kick-off will include a PBUUC-wide look at the issues we voted in at our June Congregational Meeting. Knowledgeable speakers on Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgendered legislative items will be present. A workshop, scheduled for Sunday, November 7, concerning current thinking on best ways to turn the tide on new HIV-AIDS infection rates will also be previewed. Volunteers will be recruited to publicize this event, as well as provide set up/breakdown support and provide snacks.

Other topics to be discussed will include:

- What's going on regarding affordable housing in our neighborhoods? Mosi Harrington will update us on her front line experiences on this issue.
- What has been happening to the State and Federal initiatives to take back some control over corporate spending that influences elections and legislation?

Come hear about the bills expected to be pre-filed on various issues we really care about, and how we can help them survive to become law before April 2011.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. Small planning action groups, preparing to lobby the Annapolis legislature this coming fall, will run from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Knowledgeable group leaders will make this the high point of the day.

Our Kick-off Day will finish by joining a rally on the mall in DC, focused on peace issues being co-sponsored by the UUA and local area UU churches. Carpools will leave from Paint Branch at the close of our Kick-off. Nothing like a FULL DAY!

Congratulations to our Diversity/Anti Racism Transformation Team for being awarded the Journey Towards Wholeness Award. See further information about this award on page 10.

Congratulations also to the members of Montgomery Health Care Action, recipients of the 2010 Collaborative Social Justice Award. This group, based at River Road UU Congregation, worked with other individuals and groups to move health care ahead progressively, on both state and federal levels. *(article continued next column)*

PBUUC member Rene McDonald has worked vigorously with the group for several years, bringing their agenda and presentations to us regularly.

The PBUUC Youth Group was awarded \$400 by UUSJ to be used by group members to attend regional conferences related to social justice issues or to attend the three-day intergenerational UU United Nations Office seminar in April, 2011.



Special Collections: Thanks to each of you who helped the CROP Hunger Walk. Your early August contributions totaled \$570. 25% goes to our

local Help By Phone, that provides emergency food aid through a network of church pantries; the other funds go to parts of the world where food crises and a lack of clean water contribute to serious public health emergencies. We especially appreciated Becky and Alan Hedin, who walked the circumference of Lake Artemesia that tropical Sunday afternoon.

Water was the subject of the other August collection. From our local Anacostia (to which our Paint Branch contributes) to the water systems affected by mountain top removal for coal mining, the non-profit Waterkeeper Alliance monitors and lobbies to preserve the ecological balance in our larger neighborhood. Thanks for contributing a total of \$550.

Friday, October 1, at 7:00 pm. Program and fund raising for the Goodloe Memorial Scholarship for students attending Bowie State University, a historically black institution. Rev. Don S.S. Goodloe was the first black minister certified by the Unitarian Association. He was not able to find a congregation that would accept him, though, so he turned to the establishment of this college. Come to learn about this poignant chapter in our denomination's history, being held at the Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation, 1540C Pointer Ridge Place, in Bowie, MD

Network of Spiritual Progressives meets on Wednesday, September 29, at 7:00 pm in Room 1. The program for September will be a follow-up to issues worked on at the national conference in DC early in the summer. In October the group will revert to its usual pattern of meeting on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

(continued next page)

Out in the Silence: A Documentary for Change will be screened on Wednesday, September 22, at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, located at 15200 Annapolis Road, in Bowie, MD, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Following the movie, there will be a reception including wine, beer and appetizers. During the reception, there will be a question and answer period with the film's director, followed by an assortment of deserts. The requested donation for this evening is \$35.00. View this award winning film that follows the story of a small American town

confronting a firestorm of controversy ignited by a same-sex wedding announcement in the local paper.

This evening is sponsored by the Prince George's County LGBTQ Youth Task Force, comprised of state and local governmental personnel, youth advocates, and private citizens, committed to establishing a spectrum of services to ensure the safety and well-being of LGBTQ youth in Prince Georges County.

Marge Owens

In and Around Paint Branch

PBUUC INVOLVEMENTS FAIR

WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

WHERE: ON THE DECK

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

THE INGATHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

**MANY OF THE COMMITTEES,
GROUPS, AND ACTIVITIES THAT FILL OUR CALENDAR YEAR
WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THIS FAIR.**

**HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE MANY
DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN FIND A
CREATIVE OUTLET FOR YOUR TIME AND TALENT.**

**STOP BY THE TABLES
AND TALK WITH CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP.
FIND OUT WHAT WAYS YOU CAN BECOME MORE INVOLVED AT PBUUC.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT churchadmin@pbuuc.org
or 301-937-3666.**

THEATER OPPORTUNITY COMING UP SOON



The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland has offered PBUUC a 20% discount on tickets for the world premiere performance of a unique dance production called the "Matter of Origins," choreographed and staged by the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, the noted modern dance ensemble. Performances are Friday, September 10, at 8 pm, and Sunday, September 12, at 3 pm. They say "it's not just a dance about physics, but a lively meditation on the capacity of the human mind to imagine, discern speculate and draw conclusions using dance, video, and music." For more information about the performance, you may pick up a brochure in the Meeting House Foyer or visit <http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/2010/>. To reserve a \$28 ticket, contact the PBUUC Office Volunteer (providing your name, number of tickets desired and for which performance) at 301-937-3666 or office @pbuuc.org.. For email orders, please type "Origins Tickets" in the subject line.

MORE MOVE-IN DOINGS

The RE Building received more tender loving care during a work day on Saturday, August 14. Walls and trim look sparkling after a fresh coat of paint from our jovial Paint Branch Painters. Many thanks to Mike McMenamin, Fred Teal, Penny O'Brien, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Muriel Morisey, Kathy Kearns, Pat Tompkins, Rev. Diane Teichert, Michael Leger, Matt Elliott, Alice Tyler, John Bartoli, and Sandy Roberts.

As we move towards moving back into our RE classrooms, there will be more opportunities to join the Reclaiming Our Space team. If you have 'like-new' furniture or area rugs that you think might be useful, please e-mail us details and a photo. (No unsolicited drop-offs please!) We will need strong backs when new furnishings arrive. Join the team by contacting Polly Pettit at pjpettit@erols.com or Peter Dowling at either dowtit@gmail.com or 301-589-3025.

Polly Pettit, co-chair, Move-In Committee

GREEN TEAM REPORT



Weeds beware! The Green Team and the Building & Grounds Committee want your help to rid the Paint Branch grounds of those bullying plants known as "invasives" on Saturday, September 18, from 9 am to noon, and again on Saturday,

October 2. Workers can stay as long as they wish. Bring along gloves, clippers, spades, and good spirits. You may want to wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and closed-toe shoes. We have folks who can identify what needs to be removed. All ages are welcomed to help.

Remember the seventh UU principle: Respect for the Interdependent Web of all Existence. Let's show the weeds and the public that we practice what we preach. We'll be looking for you on September 18 and October 2, even if you've never helped before.

Penny O'Brien

NATURE SPIRITUALITY CIRCLE (NSC) EQUINOX "FIELD TRIP," SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

The PBUUC Nature Spirituality Circle has decided to celebrate the Autumn Equinox with a family activity rather than a ritual. On Saturday, September 18 we will meet in downtown Silver Spring and shop together in the farmer's market. After shopping, we'll have lunch together at a local pub. Everyone is welcome to join us; if you have not participated in any PBUUC-NSC activities before this, this is a good time to jump in.

We will meet at the fountain plaza in the middle of the shopping district at 11:00 am. After introductions and a bit of visiting we'll go together (or in small groups) through the farmer's market. At noon we'll meet up again at McGinty's Pub for lunch. You do not need to RSVP, but please try to join the meet-up at 11, so that organizer Tish Hall can tell McGinty's how many are coming at noon.

It would be a good idea to bring some or all of these things: Cash for your market purchases and lunch, baskets or reusable grocery bags for the market, a note pad to jot recipes and preparation tips you might get from the other folks there.

For more information or directions, call Tish Hall at (301) 681-1457.

PAINT BRANCH BOOKSTORE BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Paint Branch Bookstore will operate monthly during Coffee Hour from September to June. It will open during the Involvements Fair on Ingathering Sunday, September 12. Then, the store will be open on the on the first Sunday of the month. There'll be UU-themed books for adults and children. There might be other items for sale from time to time. This is a win-win for the church and for you. You can build your library and knowledge about Unitarian Universalism, have a convenient source for gift buying and raise money for the church. Ellen Cotts and Carol Carter Walker will operate the PBUUC Bookstore and will be recruiting additional sales volunteers. Drop by on September 12; buy, browse and place orders for delivery the following month.

Carol Carter Walker

(In and Around Paint Branch - continued next page)

THANKSGIVING AT PAINT BRANCH

For many years Paint Branch UU Church had a Thanksgiving Dinner in the Meeting House. The tradition has not been active for several years but Tish Hall and Gavin Brennan have agreed to become the core family to bring back Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner will be a "Cooperative Pot-luck" with families signing up to bring side dishes while the turkey, stuffing, and gravy are prepared by the core family. Everyone who is able is being asked to make a small donation to help cover the cost of organic, pasture-raised turkey. (No donation is asked of those who do not eat meat.)

While it is a little bit early to begin planning for Thanksgiving, Tish would like to hear from people who attended this holiday meal in past years. How did it go? Was there something about it that you especially liked? Was there something that you didn't like? What do you think a Paint Branch Thanksgiving Dinner should include? Tish would really love to hear from people who have been involved in planning this meal. Please call 301-681-1457, or email LBCHALL@gmail.com.

ART GALLERY NEWS



We are delighted to be showing the work of Richard Neff until September 13. He is a fellow UU from Fairfax and has been painting for 40 years. He especially enjoys working in "plein aire." Take a look at his work next time you are in the Meeting House. If you want to buy one of his paintings, you need to contact him at 703-938-2546. His email is anef19@verizon.net.

Keeping the Meeting House supplied with new and exciting things to look at is sometimes a challenge. If you know of an artist whose work would show off well and who might be interested in exhibiting at our church, please contact Jane Trout at 301 572-2898 or jd_trout@msn.com. Our exhibits last about 6 to 8 weeks and we allow the artist to have a reception although they do need to provide the refreshments. If any sales are made the artist pays a commission of 20% to the church.

TWEDHUULK COMING BACK TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Third Wednesday Hyattsville area UU Lunch Klub will meet at 1 pm on Wednesday, September 15, at the Sierra Mexican Restaurant. The owners are always so glad to see us and make sure we have a good time. The restaurant is located on the edge of the shopping center on Powder Mill Road at the intersection with I-95, near the back entrance to Riderwood. Please let Marge Owens know if you are able to join us so we can reserve enough seats, by contacting her at Lowellowens@comcast.net or 301-345-1572.

2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

The 2010 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations took place in June in Minneapolis. In addition to inspiring worship, fantastic speakers and edifying workshops, the business agenda was very busy with important decisions. Here is a summary of the major items voted on by the delegates:

- The 2012 GA in Phoenix, AZ will be a "Justice GA," with business held to a minimum in favor of public social justice witness and action, in protest of SB1070 – in collaboration with local immigrant organizations.
- The Congregational Study and Action Item for the next three years is "Immigration as a Moral Issue"
- The Actions of Immediate Witness are:
 - Oppose Anti-Immigrant Measures at the State Level (Arizona Law SB 1070),
 - Gulf Coast Environmental and Economic Justice 2010,
 - Clean Up the Clean Energy Bill.
- A Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking was adopted. It calls us to take specific actions to create peace in our world, society, congregations, families and ourselves.

For a fuller report, talk with any of our delegates: Nancy Boardman, Marj Donn, Carol Carter Walker, and myself; Karen Lee Scrivo also attended. For more information, including details on the Study Action Item and videos of worship, plenary, workshops and speakers, go to www.uua.org. The 2011 GA, at which the fiftieth birthday of the UUA will be celebrated, is in Charlotte, NC, from June 22 to 26, close enough for PBUUC to send a sizable delegation.

Rev. Diane Teichert

Inaugural FORREST CHURCH SYMPOSIUM

On Unitarian Universalist Identity and Theology

Saturday 7:00 PM September 25th

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax



Keynote Presentation By Noted U.U. Theologian
Dr. Paul Rasor

- ❖ Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom
Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia
- ❖ Author of *Faith Without Certainty:
Liberal Theology in the 21st Century*

Reclaiming Our Religious Identity as Unitarian Universalists

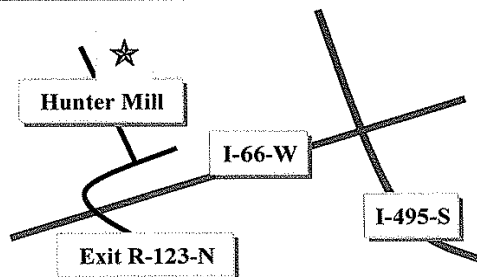
Do We Know Who We Are?

Followed By A Panel Discussion By Area UU Ministers

- ☞ Mary Katherine Morn, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax *Moderator*
- ☞ John Crestwell, Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis
- ☞ Natalie Fenimore, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
- ☞ Roger Fritts, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church (Bethesda, MD)
- ☞ Susan LaMar, Channing Memorial Church (Ellicott City, MD)
- ☞ Amanda Poppei, Washington Ethical Society

\$10 Donation Requested (At The Door)

2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA



THIS JUST IN: DRE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Director of Religious Exploration Search Committee, under the chairmanship of Marcie Washburn, is hard at work conducting the search for the next leader of our programs for children and youth. In order to discern what the congregation is looking for in a DRE, we have developed a brief (6-question) survey that we will be asking all children, youth and adults to complete during the month of September. The link to this survey can be found below. We will also be sending the link out via the list serve and paper copies will be available in the church foyer for those of you who do not use the Internet. We hope you will take a few minutes to express your point of view to guide us in our search. Just click on or type the link the link to get started!

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AZV2FGSAG>

**MURRAY GROVE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER
NEWS UPDATE:**

Murray Grove: peaceful, affordable space – perfect for retreats and family reunions

 **HOMECOMING 2010: A MID-ATLANTIC UU CELEBRATION OF THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY OF
JOHN MURRAY'S FIRST UNIVERSALIST SERMON IN AMERICA**

Friday September 24 - 7:30 pm: Rev. Michael Dowd, America's Evolutionary Evangelist, will present an oral/musical/multimedia slideshow on "Science and the Sacred: An Inspiring Vision of Humanity's Future."

Saturday, September 25:

- **10 am-4 pm:** Rev. Michael Dowd on "Passion for Life: Science, Evolution and Inspiration." Plus, an intergenerational performance of "Oh Jonah" by UUCMC; Music; Workshops; Fellowship; Fun; MNY Store. Under the big white tent! (Admission \$20 if registered by 9/15, \$24 after 9/15. Lunches \$10)
- **6-9 pm:** "Healthy People, Healthy Planet: How Our Food Choices Affect Our Health, Happiness, and the Future of Our Planet." View and discuss the film "Diet for a New America" and enjoy a gourmet vegetarian meal (\$20).

Sunday September 26 - 10 am: Sunday service in the historic Potter Chapel with Lincroft's Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst.

Stay the night Friday and/or Saturday: \$40 B&B per night! Or a weekend package for \$100!

Grove Gatherings at Murray Grove: Musical/Artistic Coffee Houses. Every second Wednesday of the month: 7:00-

For information and registration:
Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center
PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
609-693-5558
murraygrove@murraygrove.org
www.murraygrove.org

PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

❧ STAFF ❧

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert	301-937-3666
Music Director and pianist	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Interim RE Director	Karen Lee Scrivo	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst/Bookkeeper	Rebecca Birnie	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
•	Chuck Bury	301-799-2535
•	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
•	Jon Washburn	301-384-5156
Child Care	Kamini Wickramaratne	301-937-3666

❧ OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES ❧

Co-Chair	Susannah Schiller	301-776-1887
Co-chair	Bettie Young	301-490-4957
Vice chair	Don Henderson	301-977-1186
Vice chair	Michael Léger	301-589-6808
Trustee	Patty Daukantas	301-486-1949
Trustee	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Trustee	Rene McDonald	301-779-1643
Trustee	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
Trustee	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Secretary	Anita Wagner	703-401-7230
Assistant Secretary		TBD
Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473
Assistant Treasurer	Ellen Cotts (temp)	301-572-3983

❧ CARING COMMUNITY ❧

Pastoral Care Associates:		
•	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
•	Lynn Johnson	301-890-1852
•	Teresa Meeks	301-774-8151
•	Deb Rubenstein	301-891-2071

❧ WE CARE COORDINATOR - SEPTEMBER ❧

Esther Nichols 301-864-2068

❧ WORSHIP ASSOCIATES ❧

•	Abby Crowley	301-345-2663
•	Tish Hall (co-leader)	301-681-1457
•	Donald Mitchell	301-776-2359
•	John Sebastian	301-589-6808
•	Shantida (co-leader)	301-593-0417
•	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138

❧ BRANCHES ❧

Copy Editor	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
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❧ COMMITTEES ❧

Adult Religious Education		TBD
Aesthetics		TBD
Arts Council	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Budget Leadership		TBD
Buildings & Grounds	Paul Young	301-490-4957
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Denominational Affairs	Donald Gerson	240-293-6570
Finance	Don Henderson	301-681-4033
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Membership		TBD
Ministry	Muriel Morisey	301-270-2391
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Publicity & Outreach	Kathy Kearns	301-277-5211
(Co chairs)	Theresa Brown Shute	301-455-8418
Religious Exploration		TBD
Social Action	Nancy Boardman	301-982-3450
(Co-chairs)	Jessica Sharp	240-280-2582
Stewardship	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Visual Arts	Jane Trout	301-572-2898
We Care Network	Jeri Holloway	301-982-0758

❧ GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES ❧

Auction	Jan Montville	301-464-6298
Beacon House	Nathan Rummel	301-776-8551
Bridge	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Chalice Dancers	Jennifer Grant	240-426-1277
Choir	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Community Café	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl	301-805-1218
Friends & Family Social	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Golf Club	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Handcraft Circle	Marie Gore	301-572-4679
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield	301-552-4330
Mediation Program	David Haberman	301-498-7086
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter	301-982-4520
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens	301-345-1572
PB Facebook Page	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
(Co-coordinators)	Ken Montville	301-464-8367
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida	301-593-0417
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker	301-891-1288
Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner	301-890-9072
Spring Crafts Fair	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens	301-345-1572
Ushers	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Warm Nights	Stewart Speaker	301-891-2071
Webmaster	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
Women's Retreat	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
Writers Group	Ann Bolt	301-774-1960

PAINT BRANCH**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH****3215 POWDER MILL ROAD****ADELPHI, MD 20783-1097****(301) 937-3666****WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG****EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG**

Check here if you no longer wish to receive this mailing and return to PBUUC

Branches Deadlines:

- **October Edition – Monday, September 20**
- **November Edition – Wednesday, October 20**