



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 10:00 AM

Services are followed by Fellowship and then Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45 with child care provided.

NOVEMBER 1

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS – DAY OF THE DEAD

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Donald Mitchell, Worship Associate and the PBUUC Choir

Children & Youth begin in the Meeting House

At this time of year, the autumn air is hazy, mist hangs around in the morning and shrouds the streetlights at night, and we are reminded of the thin veil between life and death. Today we will be honoring the Mexican celebration of *Dia de los Muertos*. Children and adults are invited to place on the *ofrenda* (traditional altar) a *small* memento, photograph or favorite food item of a deceased loved one (person or pet).

NOVEMBER 8

A TEACHER'S HEART

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Shantida, Worship Associate

Children go directly to classes

All who are involved in (or retired from) the education of young people are especially invited to attend and receive our gratitude at this annual Public Education Sunday service. The service will feature performances by students from the Center for Visual and Performing Arts at Suitland High School and we will take up a special collection to support their band. This year, some of our own PBUUC youth will have non-musical roles in the service as well!

NOVEMBER 15

IS YOURS A SHINING OR COMPLACENT HEART?

*The ADORE (A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity) Leadership Team
from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia MD
with Marilyn Pearl, Worship Associate, and the PBUUC Choir*

Children start in Kelly Room for Children's Chapel

While our DARTT (Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team) is presenting its well-received August 9th service for the UU Congregation of Columbia today, their ADORE Team will share its well-received August 9th service with us: a reflection on the history of racial progress and setbacks in the United States, with a focus on examining how we, as individuals and UUs, can influence this unique moment in history.

NOVEMBER 22

WATER WEALTH, WATER JUSTICE

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Don Henderson, Worship Associate

Children & Youth begin in the Meeting House

Why does the UU Service Committee (UUSC) have a giant blue water-droplet puppet for its mascot these days? Today we will receive our collection boxes for the annual UUSC fundraiser "Guest at Your Table". Please bring non-perishable food goods for Thanksgiving Baskets.

NOVEMBER 29

GIVING THANKS

Karen Lee Scrivo, Interim Director of Religious Exploration, with Abby Crowley, Worship Associate

ALL AGES SERVICE in the Meeting House—nursery care is provided in Room 5

Join us as we bring all ages together to reflect on the meaning of Thanksgiving and gratitude in our lives. Please watch the announcements and list-serve for details.

The Minister's mUUsings...

I want to ask you to make more of an effort to take a seat in the Meeting House by ten o'clock on Sunday mornings. Before I explain why, let me first admit that when our children were of a certain age, my family was almost always late to services. However, I was grateful that the service started on time – it gave us a goal!

Also, I want to ask that leaders set up their displays in the Foyer well *before* the service and that anyone who remains in the Foyer during the service for whatever reasons keep the noise and activity to a bare minimum – because the sounds are disruptive for people in the rear seats and the commotion visible through the windows is distracting for the worship leaders and choir (as well as congregants, when the seating is in the oval arrangement).

Why is the service so important?

Theologically, we Unitarian Universalists don't "do guilt." We don't say that you'll be punished in the afterlife if you don't go to church in this life. We don't require attendance for the absolution of your sins or to receive sacraments only available to you in the presence of clergy.

We are non-creedal and congregational: it is not our doctrine but our gathering – the community – that is central to us. So, if the gathering is central and the worship service is our unifying, defining, collective experience... then your regular and attentive participation is essential. Of course, we meet in other ways: Religious Exploration classes, Enrichment Hour, committees, programs and activities, social events, fundraisers, and in community service and action. But the worship service is the one time we all come together.

Without you, the community is diminished. Without the community, you are diminished because you miss out on the evolving, inspiring, not-the-same-each-week worship experience as well as the opportunity to develop, broaden, and deepen your relationships with each other. All of this, and more, is true for our children and youth as well.

To these and other ends, it is my hope that we will be moving to a Sunday morning routine with earlier ushering, more frequent presence of the children, more chalice lightings by families, more involvement from youth in worship, and a full house at ten o'clock am!

Hoping to see you on Sundays,

Diane

minister@pbuuc.org

301-937-3666

IN THESE TOUGH TIMES

*Are you, or is someone you know, out of work
or expecting to be so very soon?
Are you job hunting?*

If so, please let me hear from you because I would like to convene a support group for Paint Branch UU's or their partners/spouses who are looking for work. I'm thinking it would meet twice a month on a weekday, during the day. If there is sufficient interest, I will hold the first meeting during the week of November 16th on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday afternoon to share stories and talk about what would be helpful. Please call me at the office (301-937-3666) or send me an email (minister@pbuuc.com) to let me know you are interested and what day you prefer.

Diane

Rev. Diane Teichert

MORE MESSAGES FROM YOUR MINISTER

- ❖ During my Call to Worship on Sunday, October 25th before the Blue Sky Puppet Theater presentation, I used a description of puppetry that was not entirely original and I should have given an attribution. The idea of the "impersonality" and "universality" of puppets came from *Britannica Online Encyclopedia*. The idea that "its impersonality receives our projections of our own personality, emotions and thoughts" was my own. I apologize for not being more careful.
- ❖ Every seven years or so, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (for ministers in the US and Canada) holds what is called a "Convocation," several days of professional and spiritual development and collegial conversations about ministry. It next takes place November 11-15 in Ottawa and I will be attending. I will arrange for a UU minister to be on call for me in the event of a pastoral emergency, reachable through a Pastoral Associate (Deb Rubenstein, Raman Pathik or Carol Boston) or the Church Administrator, Daniel Everitt.
- ❖ Thank you to members of the Aesthetics Committee for helping me in my efforts to simplify and de-clutter the Meeting House Foyer and the front of the sanctuary, to Ron Cotts for cleaning up the Joys and Sorrows Candle holder, and to Muriel Morisey for the offer of the lovely autumn drape for the new/experimental chalice/candle stand. Other seasonal drapes will be needed, so please let me know if you have one to loan or offer. I will likely prefer bold abstract or nature designs over small patterns or representational art.

WARM WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Newcomers--we're eager to get to know you and help you find out more about Paint Branch and Unitarian Universalism. Here are three ways to get started:



1. Chat with the greeter at the Welcome Table in the Foyer before or after any service. Help yourself to the literature there and sign up for a newsletter so we can stay in touch. Sundays at 10 am are the gathering time for our community and there are many other activities going on throughout the month that may be of interest to you.

2. Come to a newcomers' informal coffee in the minister's office on the first Sunday of the month – November 1st and December 6th are the next two opportunities. Members of the Membership Committee will be on hand for conversation between 11:15 and 11:45 am, leaving you time to join an Enrichment Hour activity, if you wish. The minister's office is the second office on the left in the Religious Education building just a few steps across the Deck from the Meeting House.

3. If you're ready to consider a deeper connection to this community, you are warmly invited to attend the next Path to Membership class on Saturday, November 7th, from Noon to 4 pm, (lunch provided). Look for the sign-up sheet in the Foyer, or call the office at 301-937-3666 to RSVP. (Another Path class will be held in the spring.)

MEET THE NEW MINISTER GATHERINGS

There will be one more and it will be family-friendly!

Saturday, November 21st from 2-5 pm
 at Jessica, Patrick and Samantha Sharp's home
 9226 Howland Road, Laurel, Maryland
 240-280-2582

Please bring a snack or beverage.

Sign up in the Foyer on Sundays or call/email the church office.

Many thanks to the Cotts, Crowley, O'Brien, Sharp, Trout, and Yankowitch-Myrup households for hosting a Meet the New Minister Gathering.

Religious Exploration (RE) News

BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND

by Karen Lee Scrivo, *Interim Director of Religious Exploration*

“You begin with the end in mind, by knowing what you dream about accomplishing, and then you figure out how to make it happen.” -- Jim Pitts of Northrup Grumman

The idea of beginning with the end in mind is particularly important for Religious Exploration at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church during this interim period as you begin to think about the RE program of your dreams and the search for a settled Director of Religious Exploration. We had an opportunity to begin that discussion last month at the two-day New Minister/ Interim DRE workshop attended by some 35 or so congregational leaders and members facilitated by Rev. Richard Speck, the Joseph Priestley District’s executive director, and Dawn Star Borchelt, a credentialed DRE and JPD consultant.

As part of the workshop, we talked about the congregation’s hopes and dreams as well as its values. Among the hopes expressed was that children and youth develop a strong UU identity along with respect for other religions. People also talked about growing the congregation, increasing diversity, attracting new families, and nurturing a sense of community.



A strong and vibrant RE program is vital to growing a congregation since many people discover Unitarian Universalism when they are looking for moral and spiritual guidance for their children, as well as a place that embraces and celebrates diversity. In my experience, those who join a UU congregation at this time often stay and become active members involved not only in RE but in the entire life of the congregation.

In addition to the large group session, an RE breakout group talked about its vision of an RE program that included:

- h Building bridges between the larger congregation and the RE program,
- h Developing RE leadership and expertise,
- h Attracting more children and youth to participate in the program, and
- h Generating a consensus around being a multigenerational congregation.

The chance to be part of a nurturing multigenerational community is important today since so many of us and our families spend most of our time in age-segregated groups at work, school or play and live far away from relatives from different generations than our own. Our congregations can often be one of the few places where we can experience what it means to be part of a multigenerational community that cares for and supports one another in our search for truth and meaning. Many Unitarian Universalist congregations like Paint Branch are working to become more racially and culturally diverse as well.

The smaller group then looked at ways to translate that vision into some concrete goals. They mentioned expanding and building upon existing multi-age events such as multigenerational worship, social action projects such as Green Sanctuary and Warm Nights and social events such as the Ethnic Dinners. Other goals mentioned included promoting the RE program to the congregation, attracting and retaining enough volunteers to support a vibrant RE program and the possibility of having programs for children and youth during Enrichment Hour.

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What are your hopes and dreams for the Religious Exploration program at Paint Branch? What do you envision for this program – both now and in the future? What do you see as part of this congregation's unique RE mission? What can you do to make Religious Exploration a vibrant program that attracts people to Paint Branch and celebrates this wonderful spiritual community?

I encourage you to think about these questions and share your thoughts with the RE Committee, the Board of Trustees, the DRE Search Committee when it's formed, Diane, and me in the coming months as we work together to find and articulate

Paint Branch's unique vision for Religious Exploration. Once we find that vision, we can then work on how to make it so.

ISO OF ANOTHER WONDERFUL RE ASSISTANT

Our wonderful RE Assistant, Penney Hughes, will be resigning in January to have a baby and get her family ready for their big move to Mali, where her husband Joe Dever will begin a new post with the Foreign Service next summer. While we're thrilled for Penney, Joe and their children, Calen and Rowen, it means we'll be looking for someone to take over as RE Assistant. If you or someone you know is interested in this vital RE position, please contact Interim DRE Karen Lee Scrivo at idre@pbuuc.org or 301-937-3666. The position is currently funded for an average of 7 hours a week through June 2010.

IT'S TIME TO WELCOME A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!

On Sunday, November 22nd, we'll launch the annual Guest at Your Table fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which carries out international and domestic social justice work in our name.



When we bring home a Guest at Your Table collection box and place it on our dining table over the holidays, our families and friends will see the photos of the "guests" pictured on the box. They will learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our UU principles into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes [economic rights](#), advances [environmental justice](#), defends [civil liberties](#), and preserves the rights of people in times of [humanitarian crisis](#).

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human rights work continues, while building UUSC membership. UUSC members are vitally important, as UUSC is an independent, membership-based organization that receives no funding from the UUA or the US government.

Special thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY, gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling your good works!

Please fill out the coupon on the box and return the box with a check, not cash, any Sunday in January.

If you miss picking up your Guest at Your Table box or donation envelope on November 22nd, you can find one in the Foyer on the table to the far right as you enter the Foyer from the Deck.

Financial Notes

Things continue to progress. The financial statements through the month of September show a deficit of \$18,000 versus a projected deficit of \$24,000 at this point in the year. Thus we are \$6,000 better off than expected.

First it is important to understand that I budget expenses and income as I expect them to come in. Thus pledges are budgeted evenly over the 12 months while the Auction income is budgeted entirely in November. For this year we are expecting a deficit of \$2,254, although I am always hopeful that we will break even.

Generally, July results are good. Of course we do have to pay the mortgage and the salaries and all the on-going costs, but since activities are not yet off the ground for the year and since some people have paid their pledges in full, the results are usually good for July. This year we had a deficit of \$2,100 versus a budgeted deficit of \$8,800. August is also a good month. We begin to receive rent from the Montessori School (half a month in August) and our activities are still at a low level.

Everything takes off in September and we begin to spend more. In September we receive a full month's rent from Montessori. This year, unlike previous years, I paid two insurance bills in full rather than in installments. This saves us a few dollars over the full year but hits the budget rather hard in the early months.

October has just finished and I see nothing out of the ordinary coming to the end of this year. Generally pledges stay ahead of budget through December because everyone wants to take the highest possible tax deduction.

After Christmas, things slow down and we end the year collecting about 95% of the amounts pledged. It is inevitable that things will happen to prevent a few people from fulfilling their pledges. This year there may be more of a shortfall than usual, but members of Paint Branch are generally very faithful in this regard. As usual, I see a generous and incredibly loyal group of UUs. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer

THE AUCTION IS THIS MONTH!

For months now we've been bringing you updates on the annual auction. The big day is this month, **Saturday, November 14 beginning at 3:30 pm**. Look for these special community-building features:

Children's Cash and Carry from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in the RE Building. The PBUUC youth are hosting a special sales room featuring gently used children's toys and books. Please bring your old-but-still-good children's toys for the youth to re-sell at very low prices. Our younger children love having a sales room of their own.

Auction Dinner from 5:45 to 6:30 pm in the Meeting House. The PBUUC Choir can cook as well as sing. Don't miss this delicious home-made dinner of Baked Ziti (Meat and vegetarian available) salad and home-baked bread. Wine will be available at the **Auction Bar**, which opens at 4:00 pm

Dessert Bar after dinner and during the live auction. Our Coming of Age class is offering a selection of home-made desserts. You will not be able to resist the temptations of this delicious fund raiser.

Auction Concert at 8:30 pm. David Chapman is arranging another wonderful concert featuring Paint Branch's own musicians. Stay and listen to the concert while your invoice is being prepared, then check out and go home with a song in your heart.

Remember these important dates:

- Sunday, November 1 – Last day to turn in your donation descriptions for the auction catalog.
- Sunday, November 8 – Get your Auction catalog! It's fun to pick up your catalog early so that you can send the week checking the donations and deciding what you want to bid for. This is also the last day to turn in donation descriptions for the catalog supplement.
- Saturday, November 14 – Auction! Clear your full afternoon and evening so you can attend the Silent Auction, the Auction dinner, the Live Auction and Auction Concert.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

UU LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY FALL WORKSHOP, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

To prepare for the beginning of the General Assembly early in January, there will be a variety of topics addressed and legislators present to advise us of bills which they expect to pre-filed. Topics such as marriage equality, the death penalty, health department budget and other perennials will be sharing time with other issues new to this year. Contact Marge Owens at 301-345-1572 or lowellowens@comcast.net for further information or car pools.

UNNATURAL CAUSES FILM SERIES

You are invited to a Free Tuesday Evening Film Series on “Unnatural Causes – Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” The Social Action Committee and the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) are co-sponsors of this series along with the Prince George’s Peace and Justice Coalition (www.justpeace-pgmd.org). “Unnatural Causes” investigates the sources of our alarming social, economic and racial inequities in health – and searches for solutions. More information, contact Marj Donn at 301-474-1353. The next showing is on Tuesday, November 10 at 7 pm in the Clubhouse at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane, Greenbelt. The third showing will be at Paint Branch on December 8th at 7 pm in the Meeting House. Join us for both films and discussion following.



MONDAY EVENING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY BY BEACON HOUSE

from 6 to 8 pm on Mondays at Beacon House at 601 Edgemoor Street in DC for the Focus Groups. The volunteer meets with the same child each week spending one hour on reading and one hour on basic math. For more information, contact the volunteer coordinator Ms. Charmaine Davis at cdavis@beaconhousedc.org or contact our PBUUC Beacon House coordinator, Nathan Rummel, at 301-776-8551 or rummelnathan@hotmail.com.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

There was no Social Action special collection in October (though there was a denominational one). Instead, there will be two collections in November: On Sunday, November 8th, our Public Education Sunday, you will have an opportunity to support a local high school with whom we have partnered for many years. Suitland High School Center for the Visual and Performing Arts is a rigorous four-year arts program that offers artistically talented high school students, from all over Prince George’s County, educational opportunities designed to prepare them artistically for college, professional study, or career options in the arts. This year, our special collection will benefit the Center’s band.

On Sunday, November 22nd, we will take a special collection for the Capital Area Food Bank, which is the largest, nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The organization distributes more than 23 million pounds of food to more than 383,000 people through a network of partner agencies.

22nd ANNUAL HELP THE HOMELESS WALKATHON – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

The Schedule for the walkathon begins with Registration opening at 7 am, an 8:30 am program on the National Mall, and the walkathon beginning at 9:00 am between 7th & 14th Streets. For more information, go to the help the Homeless website: <http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org> or call Marge Owens at 301-345-1572.

AN UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

The vote on Health Care Reform is coming. Thanks to all of you at Paint Branch who took the time to call, write, and/or e-mail your legislators to tell them it is time to get it done! Rene McDonald attended the MoveOn Rally for the public option (now 77 percent of the public support it) on October 15th, a wet, cold Thursday evening, at the Capitol. The small band of 30 or so heard a spirited speech from Donna Edwards, one of our Prince George’s County congresswomen. For more information, contact Rene McDonald at 301-779-1643.

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DR. PAUL RASOR TO DELIVER LECTURE ON THE MORALITY OF WAR

When and Where: Saturday, November 21 at 2 pm - Cedar Lane UU Church 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda.

This annual Kiplinger lecture on Ethics in American Society will be given by the Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Rasor's talk will deal with the question "Is the use of military force ever morally justified?" He has served as a minister, a lawyer, and a professor of law, theology, and religious institutions, whose publications include his latest book, *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the 21st Century*. Soon to be published is *Reclaiming Prophetic Liberation: Liberal Religion in the Public Square*. There is a charge of \$10 and seating is limited. Checks may be mailed to the address above. For car pools, contact Marge Owens at 301-345-1572 or lowellowens@comcast.net.

SAC CONTINUES ITS FOCUS ON MIDDLE-EAST PEACE

Our Social Action Committee has joined with other organizations in co-sponsoring both the Sabeel Conference, dedicated to striving for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, in early October, and the newly established "Yes We Can: Middle East Peace (YesMEP) coalition's first major performing arts event on Sunday afternoon, December 6th.

Sabeel is an ecumenical peace movement started by Palestinian Christians, based theologically on the Bible's call to justice and peace through non-violence. Sabeel works to build understanding and relationships among Christians and people of other faiths and seeks to build a worldwide movement to end the occupation of Palestine through advocacy of international law, human rights, and a faith-based call to peacemaking. SAC members Nancy Boardman and Marj Donn attended their October Conference in DC that dealt with such issues as challenging the continuing American military aid to Israel of \$3 billion annually (which may go against American law, because of the way the aid is used by Israel in their occupation of Palestine). The speakers emphasized the importance of churches in supporting President Obama's peace initiatives in the Middle East to show that the grass roots are behind his efforts.

YesMEP (Yes We Can: Middle East Peace) is a new Washington DC-based interfaith and secular coalition formed to support President Obama's initiative for a just and secure peace between Israelis and Palestinians, based on a two-state solution. Its first major effort to bring awareness and support to this issue will be a unique performing arts event on Sunday afternoon, December 6th at the Historic Synagogue located at 6th and I Streets in Washington DC. This unusual event will feature an Israeli-Palestinian rock band from the Middle East, Israeli and Palestinian bereaved family members sharing their stories, actors and actresses reading excerpts from relevant plays, and performances by local musicians, including the choir from Cedar Lane UU Church. Nancy Boardman is active in the new coalition, and Rene McDonald is bringing her graphic arts design talents to this program. More information about this event will be in the December newsletter. We hope many of you will attend!



**ALTERNATIVE GIFTS:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING THAT CAN
CHANGE THE WORLD**

Alternative Gifts International (AGI) is a non-profit organization that offers us the opportunity to spend as little as \$1.00 to designate holiday gifts that support humanitarian and environmental causes for family and friends. The Social Action Committee will be sponsoring its annual Alternative Gifts Market here on three Sundays right after service, December 6th, December 13th, and December 20th, to provide Paint Branchers and the community, including children and youth, with the opportunity to purchase gifts. This is not a fundraiser. All monies go to AGI for distribution to the organizations you designate. Catalogues will be available in mid-November. If you'd like to earn more, visit www.agi.org. If you'd like to volunteer to work at the Market, please contact Rene McDonald at rm.opal@verizon.net or Carol Carter Walker at carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net. This is a wonderful chance to provide a few hours of volunteering and make a big impact. See you at the Market!

HOW SHALL WE CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER?

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church is well-organized for the care and nurturing of members and regular attendees. But, the lay leaders in the key roles are eager for well-earned sabbaticals; and I am ready to recruit and train their successors (to begin soon or not until after the holidays, as they prefer). *Might you volunteer for one of these roles?*



The "*We Care Coordinators*" are match-makers. It is a telephone role that can be done during the day or evening; each volunteer will be the We Care Coordinator for four months during the year, on a schedule determined by the coordinators. When someone in the congregation is in need of rides, meals, calls, visits or cards due to illness, a birth or death in the family, or hardship of some kind, they contact (or are referred to) the month's We Care Coordinator to ask for help. The We Care Coordinator then finds someone to help out, by consulting the current roster of We Care Helpers, congregants who have previously indicated their willingness to provide rides, meals, calls, visits or cards as needed. The Coordinators periodically update the roster by soliciting the congregation via a questionnaire and they provide copies of the questionnaire to the Membership Committee to pass on to recent signers of the Membership Book. They meet with the minister every six or so weeks to confer about how things are going.

The "*Pastoral Associates*" are direct caregivers. They visit or phone members who need support and ask for it themselves or are referred by another congregant or the minister. The Pastoral Associates might provide practical help, but the greater emphasis is on being an attentive listening ear and a pastoral presence. They do not function as therapists, though. They typically are actively tending to between two and five people at any given time, some with more frequency and/or regularity than others. Training is provided by the minister and they meet with the minister every six weeks or so to confer about how things are going.

It seems to me that these roles would be improved and burn-out reduced if we instituted them with three-year, staggered terms like we do with Worship Associates. Therefore, I would like to bring on (1) two We Care Coordinators, one with a two-year and the other with a three-year term and (2) two Pastoral Associates, one with a two-year and the other with a three-year term. So, I'm looking for a total of four individuals. If you are interested in exploring your interest in one of these roles, please be in touch with me.

Rev. Diane Teichert, minister@pbuuc.org, 301-937-3666

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia

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

THE JOURNEY TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE

Unitarian Universalists from all over the Joseph Priestley District gathered in Annapolis on Saturday, October 17th to be inspired and enlightened at the 5th annual Racial Justice Conference. Rev. John Crestwell, the new Associate Minister at UU Church of Annapolis, cautioned us that “We must not hoard Unitarian Universalism!” Only conscious, deliberate, intentional efforts will result in the transformation of our congregations into truly welcoming, multi-cultural communities. He said our message needs to be accessible and our music needs to be diverse. A live band with drums, electric guitar, and bass along with Rev. Crestwell’s choral leadership, provided a musically moving morning worship experience.

Rev. Dr. Fred Muir, the senior minister at Annapolis, advised us to consider Cornell West’s distinction between the spectator passivity of Optimism and the vision, courage, and action inspired by Hope when combating the (xenophobic) status quo in our congregations. Rev. Muir said that Optimism can lead us to unproductive fighting regardless of the consequences, whereas Hope inspires us to work toward change with deliberate, intentional effort. Shall we argue against “political correctness” or challenge ourselves to live our meaningful, liberal UU principles? Rev. Muir repeated Garrison Keillor’s cautionary tale about why UU’s are unable to play football; after arguing about the plays, UU team members run in different directions! Arguing is not helpful. West says, “Only a new wave of vision, courage, and hope can keep us sane – and preserve the decency and dignity requisite to revitalize our organizational energy for the work to be done.”

As we embark on our Journey Toward Wholeness, toward greater inclusion, toward warmer welcoming under the shelter of our wide, liberal, theological umbrella, we must be sure to have a map, a purpose, and navigators on our journey. When we hear impatience, “Are we there yet?” we must remember that it’s a journey and that “We are closer than we have ever been!” We need to keep moving forward and remind ourselves why our journey is important. *Our youth are the present and the future of UUism and they are far more multi-cultural than their older generations.* Our journey is about growing our circle, standing on the side of love; it’s about inclusive, beloved community. Do we say we welcome diversity only to expect conformity from those who respond to our invitation? As we travel, we must stay alert, keep singing, and welcome new drivers.



One of the workshops included a panel of white mothers who talked about raising their children of color, many of whom were adopted. Mothers told poignant stories that taught them that they needed to be with their children in their sadness about being abandoned by their birth parents and their sadness about being rejected as children of color in our racialized society. After a period during which one son seemed to reject his mother, he explained why he only wanted to associate with other Blacks: “I identified with the group that embraced me as one of their own.” Another mother believed that their community accepted her child, though he was really struggling for a sense of identity. Her son said, “I was living out in Whitesville and nobody had my back.” Someone told of hearing what may have been intended as a complement: “I never think of you as Black!” I thought about how odd it would be to be told, “I never think of you as a woman!” We want all aspects of our identity to be accepted, appreciated and embraced. Certainly, tolerance is not enough! Respectful conversations about race can lead to greater empathy, understanding, and relationships.

Rev. Peter Morales, our new UUA president, spoke to a Fortune 500 institutional change consultant who told him that the greatest road blocks to progress tend to be *successes!* When institutions keep trying to shape themselves according to who they were during their “glory years,” they are doomed to fail. Unitarian Universalists love to laud leaders from our glory days of the 19th century. We need to lead and commit glorious acts in this moment of time! We must move forward consciously, deliberately, and intentionally as we Journey Toward Wholeness.

*Tricia Most, Co-chair
(more DARTT news on next page)*

DIVERSITY DIALOGUES – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th DURING ENRICHMENT HOUR

These monthly sessions offer a chance for personal reflection and discussion on issues of diversity and race in our own lives, our communities, our congregation, and our world. We will be continuing the Reverberations discussion from the August 9th "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Race And Ethnicity But Were Afraid to Ask" service. The November discussion will focus on Part 3 of the service "Differences in Treatment", as presented by Carol Carter Walker.

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 Dialogues gathering will be November 8th 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).

GATHERING FOR UUs OF COLOR – SATURDAY DECEMBER 5

People of color, ethnic minorities, their partners and spouses are invited to a December 5th Gathering at 2:00pm at All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, DC, co sponsored by the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) and the national Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) The primary reason for this gathering is to provide an opportunity for people of color and ethnic minorities in the Washington-Baltimore area to network, build community and to inform DRUUMM and the JPD how they can be more supporting in creating a nurturing, safe environment. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Rev. Om Prakash (John Gilmore), Director of Racial and Social Justice, JPD, at 610-368-2525 or at john@jpdoua.org. For directions please visit www.all-souls.org.

**DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM
NOVEMBER MEETING CANCELLED**

DARTT's November 3rd planning meeting will be canceled, so that members can use that time to prepare for the November 15 service at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia. Paint Branch's and Columbia's diversity/anti-racism groups are having a pulpit exchange on that date. Planning for the November 8th Continental Breakfast and other activities will be handled via e-mail and telephone. The December 1 meeting will focus on planning for the December 30th Kwanzaa Service.

Denominational Offerings**UU NEW YEAR'S AT MURRAY GROVE****WITH REV CRAIG HIRSHBERG – DECEMBER 31, 2009-JANUARY 1, 2010**

A festive, fun & spiritual New Year's Overnight Retreat for UUs, families and friends. Individuals, couples and groups are welcome! Includes: dinner • 1920s-theme dance lessons and dance party (any level of inexperience OK!) • ringing out the spirit of 2009 • and bringing in a wonderful 2010! \$75 per person; children under 12 \$50. Space limited – RSVP ASAP! 609-693-5558 or murraygrove@murraygrove.org.

New: We are now hosting a monthly Welcoming GLBTQQI (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex) service and potluck – coming up next on November 15th and December 6th. All GLBTQQI folks and their allies and supporters are welcome! The future dates will vary, but it'll be on a Sunday each month, from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. RSVP 609-693-5558 or murraygrove@murraygrove.org.

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

In and Around Paint Branch

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Thanks to everyone who came out to help in our September clean-up day.



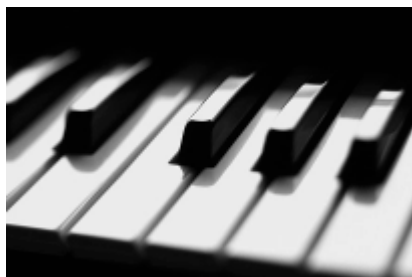
At the October meeting, the Team decided more information on green eating and locovore information can benefit all of us. (“Locovore” is defined in the Urban Dictionary – urbandictionary.com – as the “practice of eating food that is grown locally.”) Involve the whole family by talking about how food gets to our table. Marj Donn brought the problems of farmed salmon to the meeting, that farming aquaculture practices are damaging the marine environment and posing a danger to human health. You can tap the wisdom and knowledge of the UU community through visiting the following site:
<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/ethicaleating-network>

- *Urban Forest –Yes, Everything’s Connected.* Joann Alexander sent an update to the Green Team, calling our attention to the Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009, which states that by keeping our land undeveloped, we are helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay waters. The woods located on Paint Branch property are adjacent to the Maryland Park and Planning Commission Property and are classified as an urban forest which has special priorities with the Department of Natural Resources.
- Karen Donovan has been researching recycling in Prince George’s County. It seems PBUUC falls between a business and residence for using county services. In the meantime, recycle treasures are being picked up weekly by the committee for distribution at home.
- The next meeting of the Green Team will be November 8th. All are invited.
- Question of the month: How can you stop waste before it starts?

Penny O’Brien, Green Team Member

UPCOMING CONCERTS AT PBUUC

Thomas Pandolfi piano concert at PBUUC **Sunday, November 8 at 4:00 PM**



The *Music at Paint Branch* concert series is thrilled to present a concert by virtuoso pianist **Thomas Pandolfi** on Sunday afternoon, November 8th. Thomas will perform a program of works by Chopin, Liszt, Scriabin, and Gershwin, as well as his own improvisation on a selection of Gershwin melodies.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, Thomas has performed this past season in recital and as a guest soloist for symphonies in Europe and throughout the US. His web site, www.ThomasPandolfi.com, includes a detailed biography.

Those who were at PBUUC during the years Thomas served as our pianist will especially look forward to the performance. Thomas is also looking forward to performing at PBUUC and seeing all of us again. If you have never heard Thomas play, you do not want to miss this amazing experience.

A reception will follow the concert, which is free. As always, donations are gratefully accepted and will go toward supporting our concert series and the artist.

Julie Dahmer, PBUUC Arts Council

(continued next page)

ART GALLERY NEWS

NICARAGUAN ART WORK ON DISPLAY THIS MONTH

The Visual Arts Committee is pleased to announce that paintings by Nicaraguan artists are on display in the Meeting House. These native artists sell their work through the Nicaraguan Cultural Alliance (NCA). The NCA is a small, fair-trade, non-profit charitable organization which exists to celebrate the art and beauty of Nicaragua. By selling this artwork the NCA hopes to sustain artists' communities and provide talented artisans with a living wage.



Other Nicaraguan arts and crafts will be available for sale at a reception sponsored by the Social Action Committee on Sunday, November 1st, after church on the Deck and in the Kelley Room. Central American snacks will be served and the NCA will offer beautiful ceramics, baskets, note cards and fair trade coffee. Twenty percent of any purchase will be returned to Paint Branch and 50% is tax deductible. For more information about the artwork, please contact Roz Fischer at 301-864-5218.

FABRIC ARTS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER SHOW

The Visual Arts Committee is planning a display of Fabric Arts for the Meeting House. The show will be put up in December 5 and come down after church on January 10. We would love to include some of your work. Please let us know if you have something to display or call us with questions. The coordinator is Deb Rubenstein and can be contacted by phone at 301 891-2071 or by email at hrrs95@gmail.com. You may also call Jane Trout at 301 572-2898 or email jd_trout@msn.com.

HANDCRAFT CIRCLE - WANT TO HAVE A WARM HEART THIS WINTER?

Each November the Handcraft Circle manages the Boutique at the Auction and then the Hats and Mittens sales which take place in the Meeting House Foyer on Sundays from Thanksgiving until the middle of December. All items for both sales are made and donated by members of the Handcraft Circle and other Paint Branchers and friends. All proceeds from these sales go directly to PBUUC. (Last year the combined total of the Auction Boutique and Foyer sales was about \$1359.)

We know there are many Paint Branchers who knit and crochet, but are involved in other activities and not able to join in the Circle meetings. However, if you have the time to make a hat, scarf, or a pair of mittens, it's not too late to whip up something for this year's sales. In addition to the items that are purchased by Paint Branch members and friends for personal use or gifts, many also decorate the Mitten Tree at the Annual Holiday Family Service and are given to a local school which has children in need of warm clothing. Other items are donated to a group which helps the homeless and to some of our Warm Nights guests. One year we were able to donate some of our things to local families made homeless by an apartment house fire.

So....helping us warm heads and hands this winter will warm your heart. The Handcraft Circle meets during Enrichment Hour on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from September through June, and we welcome new members at any time. For information please contact Marj Donn at 301-474-1353 or email at marjdonn@mindspring.com. You can also contact Marie Gore at 301-572-4679 or mgore22215@aol.com.



TREE DEDICATION TO HONOR BOB HOLLOWAY – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1

You are invited to join in a tree dedication ceremony that day honoring Bob Holloway, former PBUUC music director, immediately following the Sunday Service. The location will be on the Deck near the parking lot. Feel free to bring your cup of coffee and join us.

FESTIVE FRIDAYS ARE NOW FRIENDS AND FAMILY SOCIALS UPCOMING DATES – NOVEMBER 13TH AND DECEMBER 11TH

Picture a fun and entertaining evening, one which provides you with ample opportunity to create new friendships or lavish quality time on long time friends, cherished family members and loved ones. Now add the possibility of showing friends and family members how much you value PBUUC and giving them the chance to become part of our Unitarian Universalist community. *Voila!* You now have the Friends and Family Socials (formerly Festive Fridays). Whether you have been with this congregation from its earliest days or are new and finding your way around, these new social events will have something for everyone. Our most recent social, on October 30th, featured a number of dance bands, plenty of tasty snacks, all in the comfort of our Meeting House. Come and add to the fun. Set aside Friday, November 13th and December 11th to come and be part of the enjoyment. If you are interested in helping with planning these social events, contact Raman Pathik at 301-890-9072 or rpathik@juno.com. Watch your Sunday Bulletin for more details.

“STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE” ADDS DISTINCT UU PRESENCE TO THE NATIONAL MARCH ON EQUALITY

Our Unitarian Universalist National Advocacy Program is leading the way on many different fronts and important issues such as Health Care Reform and Civil Equality in Marriage. UUs from all over the mid-Atlantic were a significant presence at the most recent National March on Equality on October 11th, where it was estimated that between 75,000 and 200,000 stood up for Equality in Civil Marriage. We had a rousing Sunday Service at All Souls, Unitarian, led by their ministers, Revs. Robert Hardies and Shana Lynngood, with a sermon delivered by Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President. After the service, we took to the streets with other UUs representing a large number of congregations from Tennessee to Pennsylvania, both congregational members and district leadership, (see Dr. Richard Speck, JPD District Executive in right picture), along with various other churches, synagogues and denominational representatives, to clearly show their support for this important issue.

Interested in finding out more about this important movement within our own denomination? Want to know what other issues are now feeling the love of UU's everywhere? Visit www.standingonthesideoflove.org to find out all the important work is going on and how you can become part of this fast growing UU movement.



PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY**–STAFF–**

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert...	301-937-3666
Music Director/Pianist	David Chapman.....	301-937-3666
Interim RE Director.....	Karen Lee Scrivo.....	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst.....	Penney Hughes.....	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt.....	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst.	Rebecca Birnie.....	301-937-3666
Bookkeeper.....	Eleanor Coyne	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers.....	Sharon Werth.....	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
.....	Chuck Bury.....	301-799-2535
.....	Bryan Coté.....	240-123-4567
.....	Jesse Crowley.....	301-345-2663
Child Care	Kamini Wickramaratne.....	301-937-3666

–OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES–

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Vice Chair	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Vice Chair	Bettie Young.....	301-490-4957
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Trustee.....	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Trustee.....	<i>VACANT</i>	
Trustee.....	<i>VACANT</i>	
Secretary	Anita Wagner.....	703-401-7230
Assistant Secretary	John Sebastian	301-589-6808
Treasurer	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mike Stark	301-441-2473

–CARING COMMUNITY–**PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:**

.....	Carol Boston.....	301-585-4183
.....	John Lagerquist	301-864-1745
.....	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
.....	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein (Lead) ..	301-891-2071

–We Care Coordinator for November**JERI HOLLOWAY – 301-464-6298****–WORSHIP ASSOCIATES –**

.....	Abby Crowley	301-345-2663
.....	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
.....	Don Henderson.....	301-977-1186
.....	Donald Mitchell.....	301-776-2359
.....	Marilyn Pearl	301-805-1218
.....	Shantida	301-593-0417

–BRANCHES–

Editor.....	Daniel Everitt.....	301-937-3666
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– COMMITTEES –

Arts Council	Julie Dahmer	301-890-7807
Budget Leadership Team	VACANT	301-931-9024
Buildings & Grounds	James Alexander	301-277-3211
Canvass	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
DIV Team	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Denominational Affairs	Donald Gerson.	240-293-6570
Finance	Don Henderson	301-681-4033
Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Membership	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
Ministry (convener)	Bruce Baker	301-589-3633
Nominating	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Publicity & Outreach	Kathy Kearns	301-277-5211
(Co chairs)	Theresa Brown Shute.	301-455-8418
Religious Exploration	<i>VACANT (direct all questions to IDRE)</i>	
Social Action	Marge Owens	301-345-1573

– 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
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik.....	301-890-9072
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl... ..	301-805-1218
Golf Club	Tim Illig.....	410-707-6678
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson.....	301-906-9966
Handcraft Circle	Marie Gore.....	301-572-0478
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield.....	301-552-4330
Men's Group	John Bartoli.....	301-441-2516
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter	301-982-4520
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens.....	301-345-1572
PBMS Liaison	Kate Brett.....	301-931-9024
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrte Rooker... ..	301-891-1288
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner.....	301-890-9072
TWedHUULK	Larry Lates.....	301-345-6923
Ushers	Esther Nichols.....	301-864-2068
Warm Nights	Kelly Wester.....	301-937-7375
Writers' Group	Ann Bolt	301-774-1960



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