



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 2009

DECEMBER 2009 SERVICES

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am / Two services on Christmas Eve
Sunday Services are followed by Fellowship and then Enrichment Hour
from 11:45 am-12:45 pm for which child care is provided.

DECEMBER 6

DARK OF WINTER

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Tish Hall, Worship Associate, and Chalice Dancers
****Children go directly to classes****

This service offers a joyously subdued reflection on the gifts of winter nights with the Chalice Dancers performing, and a New Members Welcome Ceremony, reception in their honor to follow.

DECEMBER 13

MUSIC, DANCE, AND...LIGHTS!

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Jennifer Grant, Worship Associate
****Children begin in the Meetinghouse****

On the third Sunday in Advent and the second day Hanukkah, we'll be lighting five candles, reflecting on these traditions, and enjoying seasonal creativity!

DECEMBER 20

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE SUN RETURNS!

7th and 8th Grade RE Class and more, with Marilyn Pearl, Worship Associate
****ALL AGES SERVICE in the Meeting House—nursery care is provided in Room 5****

As we travel towards the end of another year, the days have grown shorter and the nights longer until we come to the Winter Solstice, when the cycle slows, stops, and finally reverses. Daylight hours grow longer once again. Come celebrate the "rebirth" of the sun as 7th and 8th grade RE class members present a special pageant that looks at familiar celebrations in some unfamiliar contexts.

DECEMBER 24

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

(Offerings will support programs for the homeless and hungry.)

6:30 PM

FAMILY SERVICE WITH NATIVITY SCENE

Rev. Diane Teichert & Karen Lee Scrivo
with Worship Associate, Don Henderson
Quartet and Chalice Dancers (child care for the youngest)

9:30 PM

READINGS AND CAROLS

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Tish Hall, Worship Associate
Choir and Chalice Dancers (no child care)

DECEMBER 27

REUNION OF THE GENERATIONS

Donald Mitchell and Erin Washburn, Worship Associates
****ALL AGES SERVICE in the Meeting House—nursery care is provided in Room 5****

We continue our tradition of welcoming back friends and family, reuniting with college students home for winter break and adult children and grandchildren visiting for the holidays. Please bring food to share at our pot-luck brunch following the worship service.

The Minister's mUUsings...

This year, the congregation is embarking on a crucial transition in our Religious Exploration program. By bringing on an *Interim* Director of Religious Exploration (IDRE), PBUUC gave itself the opportunity to take the time to assess what it has, and envision what it wants, in our Religious Exploration (RE) program for children and youth, guided by Karen Lee Scrivo who is trained in interim DRE work. Ideally, we will also assess and envision our Adult RE program in the same way and begin to conceptualize a coherent, enlivened "life-span" religious exploration program.

In this column, I want to share my wonderings about our RE offerings for children and youth. I'm still new enough to have an outsider's perspective, informed by my experience as a parent and RE teacher, intern minister, and parish minister in a total of five other Unitarian Universalist congregations ranging in size from 35 to nearly 400 members. And, I've benefitted from Karen's thoughtful perspective. But, I'm also so new that there are undoubtedly aspects I do not yet see.

What I'm wondering about, and invite you to consider, is: does our RE program for children and youth seem set-apart, even undervalued?

I wonder about physical separation: the RE building is detached from the meetinghouse. Other than parents and RE teachers, few adults make their way to the RE rooms on Sundays. The children are present in the meetinghouse less than half of our Sunday services; the middle and high school youth are rarely present. After the service and RE classes are over, what follows is not very child-friendly; maybe that's why most families go home, leaving other adults to enjoy fellowship with one another.

I'm told that this separation is relatively new for PBUUC. From 1965 (when what is now the RE building was opened) to 1991 (when the meetinghouse was built), *all* Sunday activities took place in the RE building, with worship in the Kelley Room. Back when there were 300 adults and 200 kids in that small building, with two morning services and RE classes concurrent with each service, the generations must have been very well acquainted!

I wonder, too, about the identity of our current RE space: our RE building does not look like UU space. It is visually dominated by the equipment and materials of the Montessori School, our long-term tenant. The various storage spaces, including the lower-level of the meetinghouse, are crammed with their stuff. Our RE staff, young people and teachers likely feel like *we* are the tenants! It's our property, but it doesn't feel like our home.

I also wonder if our past staffing patterns may also unintentionally contribute to a sense of separation and under-valuing of RE? Observing the difficulty in teacher recruitment this year, I've been wondering if it is related to the fact that the successful DRE's in our history were members of the congregation and so could draw on their friendships with fellow congregants in recruiting volunteers. When a member-DRE resigns and that web of relationships is torn, do people step back from volunteering? Was the congregation's enthusiasm more for the DRE than for the RE program, and so the program itself suffered a lack of identity and energy? Does a member-DRE contribute volunteer-hours on top of their paid hours, especially providing social activities for kids at congregation-wide events, creating expectations of the next DRE that are impossible to meet in the paid hours?

Are there other signs of what may be undervaluing of children and youth? For example, I'm told that the Path to Membership Class used to give only a passing mention to the RE program, whereas truly it is one of the congregation's core missions. What more can I do to be as supportive as is needed of the RE program or of families in general? How can we develop a better balance in congregational life between adult-only and family-friendly qualities?

There's more (I haven't even mentioned the December 2004 fire that closed the RE building for a year!) to wonder about and to clarify, as we assess and re-envision our RE program. In early January, I will devote a sermon to lifting up our Religious Exploration program and other opportunities for your involvement in the conversation will follow.

(continued on next page)

Hopefully, we will re-ignite our passion for—and commitment to— building a strong, attractive religious exploration program for the youth, children and babies already with us... and the many to come!

Looking forward to seeing *you* on Sundays,

Diane

PS: I've noted more people arriving on Sundays before 10 am since my last newsletter article, so thank you.

Religious Exploration News

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Karen Lee Scrivo

Interim Director of Religious Exploration

One of the things I look forward to during the holidays is the chance to spend time with family. For me and my husband Ken and our 18-year-old son Kelson, that means traveling back to Ohio.

My 87-year-old mother, who has been blessed with good health, still lives in the house in which I spent my middle and high school years in Lorain, Ohio, along the banks of Lake Erie west of Cleveland. Ken's parents live in Hubbard in the house Ken grew up in and his brother, Don and his family are nearby in Youngstown. On the way back, we also try to stop in Pittsburgh and see my favorite cousin, Kevin and his family.

I enjoy the chance to catch up with what's been going on in everyone's life and being in the embrace of a warm and loving family. I also love the bountiful holiday meals with all of us crowded around the table and then heading for Harding Hill for sled riding if Mother Nature has put on her white winter coat. Afterward, we often gather around the table for a round of cards -- Spades, Hearts or Poker -- or a new board game that Ken has discovered.

For me, this holiday time is a chance to slow down and cherish the simple joys of being in a caring community that brings together everyone -- regardless of age -- for conversation, meals and fun.

In addition to my family, I feel fortunate to be part of the wonderful caring community here at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, where there

will be many opportunities this month to enjoy the holiday season together.

I'm particularly looking forward to the Holiday Service and Pageant on December 20. The theme of this year's pageant is Winter Solstice. Our middle school students have been working with John Bartoli and Pat Tomkins on creating their own original interpretation of this season. The pageant will be followed by the annual Holiday Dinner, another chance for us all to be together.

For the Family Christmas Eve service, we'll be recreating the Nativity story of the birth of Jesus, from the book of Luke in the Christian Bible. We'll need the help of those attending, some of whom we hope will take parts in the familiar story, as we present it as though it were happening now. For this no-rehearsal version, we'll have costumes and props on hand for those participating. Dressers and stage managers will help people get costumed and direct them to the right places. I hope you'll join us for this interactive service that begins at 6 pm as well as the traditional Candlelight Service, which starts at 9:30 pm.

On December 27, we will be welcoming back our young people who have gone on to college and jobs in the Young Adult Reunion Service. Later that day, at 5 pm, there will be the Winter Solstice Ritual in the Meeting House. And the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) is hosting a Kwanzaa event on December 30.

There is also time to be together at the Friends and Family Socials. On December 16, there will be the chance to decorate the holiday tree as well as events for children, youth and adults. On December 31, Paint Branchers will have a chance to welcome in the new year at the New Year's Eve Party.

If you're looking for that special gift for a special someone, check out Alternative Gifts for Adults and Children, and the Handcraft Circle Hats and Mittens, which will be available in the Meeting House sanctuary and lobby after services on December 6, 13 and 20. There's also the Holiday Market Fair and Bread Sale after the service on December 6.

Meanwhile, I want to thank you for inviting me to be a part of your wonderful church family. And I wish you peace and joy this wonderful holiday season.

Financial Notes

As I write this we have just concluded the auction and it is almost Thanksgiving. I think we do indeed have a great deal to be thankful for.

We are members of a warm and caring church community that supports us in our religious journey. How many people in the world can say that? And how many are looking for a place like PBUUC but don't know it exists? We have a lot of work to do to fulfill our dreams and to help others join us on our way.

The auction was a huge success - thanks to Jan Montville and the many many people who helped her. It was a well organized event and the items offered and the bids received showed how much we care about our community. My initial estimate for Auction Income is about \$22,000 - a new high.

At Thanksgiving, we think seriously about all the blessings we enjoy and about how to share these blessings with others.

As we approach Christmas (and the end of the tax year) I invite you to share some of your financial blessings with your church community. Certainly pay as much of your pledge as you are comfortable doing. If you can go beyond that, think of the Legacy Fund which has been growing nicely in recent months and is almost back to the \$100,000 mark.

Another possibility is the Building Fund which was set up a few years ago as seed money for the time when we can do major renovations to our buildings. Or you could make a donation to the mortgage. There is no penalty for early payment on the mortgage and any amount of principal paid early avoids interest on that amount for the next 9 years.

I wish each of you a warm and wonderful Christmas season full of joy and fun. I am happy to be a part of your church family and hope you also feel the blessings of being part of an inclusive and welcoming congregation.

In faith, Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer



ANOTHER AWESOME AUCTION

First things first - thank you to all the donors and bidders, and to everyone who pitched in and helped make Auction 2009 a rousing success. There was so much to do and everywhere I looked I saw people doing what needed to be done and having fun doing it. We don't have the final auction total as of this writing because there are still some expenses to be covered, but our best round estimate is that we made over \$22,000, which is a little bit more than last year. So, once again, it was the best auction ever.

I wish that I could thank every single person who helped, but that would add a page or two to the newsletter. I do want to recognize several groups who worked together on specific tasks: the Youth Group coordinated and ran the Kids' Cash and Carry; the Choir organized and cooked the Auction Dinner; the Handcraft Circle created their own boutique and handled sales for other cash-and carry handcrafts. The Coming of Age families provided our delicious dessert table; David Chapman and members of the congregation came through with a delightful concert at the end of the evening; and members of the Men's Group reset the Meeting House when it was all over.

I'd also like to thank a few special individuals: Tish Hall, who not only handled all publicity but also acted (in effect) as the auction co-chair, offering her great creativity, energy and experience to the event planning; previous auction chairs such as Kathi Yu, Kelly Wester and Robyn McCoy, who left such well-organized notes in an Auction Manual that is a blueprint to a successful auction; Penny O'Brien, another source of great advice and experience, plus a calming influence whenever I started to get rattled, who worked longer hours than anyone - all evening Friday and all day & night on Saturday; and John Bartoli, another calming influence for me, who ran the public "show" on Auction night as our master of ceremonies and organizer for the live auction.

Behind the scenes, Beth Lyons did a marathon job of collating all the donations into a well-organized catalog; John Sebastian led the data team who entered all of the bids and payments; and Marcie Washburn led the cashier/check-out team. Bridget Dahmer (former youth group member, now college student, who was 'volunteered' by her mom Julie) raked all the leaves from the deck, made signs for the silent auction tables, and just did whatever I asked of her - much like the other 60+ folks who volunteered.

Last, but not least, I want to thank those who stayed to the very end, picking up the leftovers and cleaning up the RE building and the Meeting House foyer – including Pat and Charles Tompkins, Ed Dawson, Norma Jean Thacker and others. Many, many people contributed to the fun and success of this year's auction. Hugs and thanks to you all!

Auction 2010 will begin next summer when the auction committee has its first brain-storming meeting. An auction committee of five or six people can coordinate an amazing auction without anyone getting overwhelmed. Make 2010 the year that you join the auction committee!

Jan Montville, Auction Committee

Notes from the Church Administrator

As the congregation heads towards the winter and coming holiday season, the church office keeps a keen eye out for the numerous tasks that pop up this time of year. Holiday Calendar Scheduling, additional Orders of Service, planning for snow/ice removal, in addition to coordinating with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to stay on top of regular building maintenance, are all part of the regular routine as we enter into the colder months.

Fortunately, a few changes in the office, and additions to our staff, are helping to accommodate the increased needs we are seeing. Recently, we hired an additional Sunday Service/Rental Manager, Bryan Coté. He joins Jesse Crowley and Chuck Bury in the Sunday Service Rotation, as well as being available for additional congregational and rental events at any point during the week.

Working with Diane, a few new administrative tools and ideas have been introduced to help perform routine tasks more efficiently. A new form to help keep track of Sunday Attendance in both the Meeting House and the RE classes has been created. This always helps in reporting our attendance on an annual basis to the UUA, but it also helps Diane with her planning. She has also helped in developing a new procedure for getting visitor information funneled to church leadership (Board, Membership Committee, Canvass), so that timely contact is made with our visitors.

Staff are also informed so we can better maintain our databases, keep track of the numbers of visitors each month, send visitors copies of our newsletter, and contact visitors who may have interests in Religious Exploration and other programs at PBUUC.

We've also been keeping records of our building maintenance requests. Knowing the type of request, and how long it takes to deal with the variety of maintenance issues is important. We are able to keep track of the generous donation of hours by our small cadre of dedicated, skilled volunteers on the Building and Grounds Committee: James Alexander, Ron Cotts, Lowell Owens, and Mike McMenamin. They do important work helping to assess whether current systems of dealing with building maintenance issues are sufficient, and whether or not we must look for new ways to maintain our buildings (one of which is now 45 years old) and finance their upkeep. Knowing all this helps plan the budget for the coming year, as well as plan on ways to encourage further volunteer and financial support for routine care and any possible major repairs in both the Meeting House and the Religious Exploration Buildings.

One important thank you needs to go out – and that is to Carol Carter Walker, who has been a member of the office volunteer crew for 2 years. Carol regularly donates her Fridays in the office, helping us with proofing the Sunday Bulletin and Branches, as well as being the initial, friendly voice on the phone. Carol also coordinates the office volunteers, keeping folks informed of when they are scheduled by creating and sending out regular monthly calendars. Her happy, willing presence in the office has been of enormous help, as she leaves the office volunteer position she will be truly missed. However, she will continue on in her many roles within our congregation and in our District.

The office will be needing volunteers on Fridays beginning in January to help with the proofing of the Sunday Bulletin, as well as folks who can fold, stamp and label the newsletter. If you find yourself having some extra time to donate, and would enjoy helping out in the office, please give us a call at 301-937-3666.

Daniel Everitt, Church Administrator

PBUUC Holiday Calendar for 2009

At-a-glance

Some locations to be announced, please see the bulletin and web calendar in coming weeks for details.

Sunday, December 6th

During Enrichment Hour – 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

- New Member Recognition Reception
- Alternative Gifts Market for Adults and Children
- Open Door Housing Fund “House Pin” Sale
- Holiday Market Fair & Bread Sale
- Book Sale – varied titles from UUA Bookstore
- Handcraft Circle Hats & Mittens Sale
- Beacon House Tree

Friday, December 11th

- 5:30 pm – Holiday Tree Decorating – Meeting House
- 6:30 to 9 pm – Friends and Family Social – Meeting House

Sunday, December 13th - Holiday Choir and Dance Service

During Enrichment Hour – 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

- Alternative Gifts Market for Adults and Children
- Open Door Housing Fund “House Pin” Sale
- Book Sale – varied titles from UUA Bookstore
- Handcraft Circle Hats & Mittens Sale
- Beacon House Tree

Sunday, December 20th - Solstice Service with Pageant and “Mitten Tree”

During Enrichment Hour – 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

- Alternative Gifts Market for Adults and Children
- Open Door Housing Fund “House Pin” Sale
- Book Sale – varied titles from UUA Bookstore
- Handcraft Circle Hats & Mittens Sale
- Beacon House Tree
- Poinsettias will be available today after the service – Meeting House Foyer

Congregational Holiday Potluck Dinner – TBD if coordinators emerge

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Services

- 6:30 pm – Family Service – Meeting House
- 9:30 pm – Candlelight Service (no nursery care available) – Meeting House

Sunday, December 27th – Reunion of the Generations Service

- Potluck Brunch – immediately following the service – Meeting House
- 5 pm – Winter Solstice Ritual – Meeting House

Wednesday, December 30th

- 5 pm – Kwanzaa Service and reception, sponsored by DARTT – Meeting House

Thursday, December 31st

- 6:30 pm – Friends and Family Social / New Year’s Eve Party – Meeting House

Holiday Events and Activities

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 6, December 13 and December 20—to provide Paint Branchers and the community, including children and youth, with a chance to purchase gifts.



This is not a fundraiser. All monies go to AGI for distribution to the organizations you designate. Stop by and browse the AGI Catalogue and choose a thoughtful way to honor your family, friends and colleagues with a gift that will remain long after the holidays are over. You can help restore forests in Central America, help end child abuse, and convert waste to power in Haiti, help feed the hungry and homeless in the United States and Canada, improve health and provide safe water in Africa, provide clean water and schools in India---the list goes on. There are 30 projects all over the globe. You choose the ones you want to support and at which level you wish to give. Every selection comes with an insert describing the project enclosed in a beautiful card. See you at the Market!

Carol Carter Walker, Alternative Gifts Coordinator

BEACON HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE

Beacon House is a nonprofit organization that helps educate underprivileged youths in Northeast Washington, DC. Every year, a Christmas tree with twenty five paper ornaments representing gifts for underprivileged youths and senior citizens is set up at Paint Branch. The paper ornaments are taken, and returned with unwrapped gifts by December 20 at Paint Branch so I can take the gifts to Beacon House. For many of the youths and senior citizens, this is their Christmas/Holiday.

Nathan Rummel, Beacon House Liaison

BOOK SALE HOSTED BY PBUUC FOR HOLIDAY GIVING

On Sunday, December 6, 13 and 20, beginning right after service, you'll have an opportunity to purchase poetry, children's books, meditation manuals, fiction and non-fiction from the Unitarian Universalist Association Bookstore. Buy them for yourself or for holiday giving. You'll also help to raise some money for Paint Branch. For more information, please contact Carol Carter Walker at 202-636-8138.

OPENDOOR HOUSING FUND HOUSE PINS FOR SALE



These pins, designed by a woman once homeless, are a fund raiser for OpenDoor, the successor organization to the Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corporation and the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund. The pins are \$15, \$8 of which goes to OpenDoor. These pins are great for holiday, Valentine's Day and Mother's Day gift giving. They'll be on sale on Sunday, December 6, 13 and 20 right after service.

Carol Carter Walker

POINSETTIA SALE UPDATE

The Poinsettia plants that you ordered in November will be delivered to the church on Thursday, December 17. When the poinsettias arrive, I will label and arrange them in the Meeting House and Foyer where they will provide holiday cheer until you pick them up. Most of the plants are taken home the Sunday of the Holiday Pageant. Some folks have asked if they can get their plants before the Sunday of the pageant. Anyone who wants to pick up plants earlier may come and get them any time the Meeting House is open. I suggest that you look on the interactive web calendar at www.pbuuc.org and see what is happening in the Meeting House after the poinsettias arrive. Any time the Meeting House is being used for a church event like a rehearsal, you can come in and get your plants. If you want to pick up early, call or email me and I will make sure that your plants are in an easy-to find spot.

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This year I made a little mistake when I set up our order with Behnke's. I have to place a small order to reserve our delivery time, so I always go through previous years' orders and order a quantity of plants that has always sold before. This year you all surprised me and bought more very large plants than ever before, leaving me with several medium-sized plants unsold. If you would like one of these plants, call me, email me, or see me at church. These are red blossomed plants in 6" pots with 4 to 6 blooms per plant. Your payment of \$9.50 per plant will reserve these gorgeous poinsettias for you. My contact information is email LBCHALL@gmail.com or 301-681-1457.

Tish Hall

REUNION OF THE GENERATIONS POT-LUCK BRUNCH

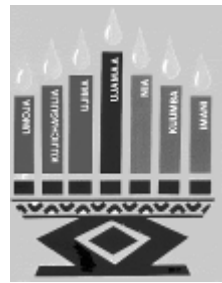
On Sunday, December 27, we will be continuing our tradition of welcoming returning Paint Branchers with a brunch after the worship service. I have been very honored to prepare the brunch for the church in previous years, but I am not able to continue doing so much of it by myself, so beginning this year we are changing the brunch to a pot-luck, and I will be coordinating the kitchen.

Please bring food to share when you come to the morning worship service. Just stop in the kitchen as you arrive and drop the food off. Just in case there is a rush and I can't talk to you personally, include a little note telling me what needs to be done (reheat, keep warm, divide into serving portions, etc.) and be sure that your name is on your utensils. As always, I appreciate help in the kitchen. Immediately after the worship service the chairs will need to be stacked and tables brought into the Meeting House. I would love to have several helping hands in the kitchen to get our buffet set up in the lobby. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can contact me at LBCHALL@gmail.com or 301-681-1457.

Tish Hall



DIVERSITY/ANTI RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE KWANZAA



On Wednesday, December 30, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, the Paint Branch UU Church Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team will celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa with a service and reception in the Meeting House.

Kwanzaa was created and first celebrated by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 to introduce and reinforce seven basic values of African societies which contribute to building and reinforcing family, community and culture among African American people as well as Africans throughout the world African community. These values are called the Nguzo Saba, Swahili for Seven Principles.

Our intergenerational celebration will focus on the connections between the seven principles of Kwanzaa and Unitarian Universalism in order to expand the honoring of this holiday. Please put this event on your holiday calendar.

Carol Carter Walker

Murray Grove News Update:

UU NEW YEARS at Murray Grove with Rev Craig Hirshberg – December 31, 2009-January 1, 2010
A FESTIVE, FUN & SPIRITUAL NEW YEARS 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 MANIFESTING 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 GLBTQI (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex) SERVICE and POTLUCK – coming up next on November 15 and December 6. All GLBTQI 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

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

SUNDAY AFTERNOON GALA!

Please attend an afternoon of music, theater, and pleas for peace on Sunday, December 6, from 2 to 6 pm at the Sixth and I Street Historic Synagogue near the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro stop. For directions please visit www.sixthandi.org. Flyers about this event are in the Meeting House Foyer and on the congregation's website. We hope many Paint Branchers will attend this event sponsored by Yes We Can: Middle East Peace (YesMEP), meet the performers and speakers from Israel and Palestine, and add our voice of support to the President's Middle East Peace initiative.

YesMEP is an interfaith, 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. SAC is a strong supporter of this new local peace coalition - understanding how difficult the road to Middle East peace continues to be - and how the President needs to know he has grass roots support for America's necessary involvement in this most challenging of foreign policy undertakings.

Nancy Boardman is active in this new local coalition and Rene McDonald is bringing her graphic arts design talents to YesMEP's December 6 gathering for peace.

FILM ON HEALTH WITH GUEST PRESENTER



On Tuesday, December 8, come to see "Unnatural Causes – Is Inequality Making Us Sick" here in our Meeting House at 7 pm. This film is part of a series, but each part is complete unto itself. Brooke McEntyre of Maryland Health Care for All will bring us up-to-date on health legislation

in Maryland. Our Social Action Committee (SAC) and the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) are co-sponsors of this series along with the Prince George's Peace and Justice Coalition. For more information contact Marj Donn at 301-474-1353.

UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE



In November, 219 Democrats and one Republican in the US House, including Rep. Steny Hoyer, voted to pass a health care reform bill that will end insurance company abuses, require employers to pay a fair share and establish a strong public option to lower costs and make insurance companies compete. And it won't tax the benefits of hard-working middle class families. Bill HR 3962—the Affordable Health Care for America Act—is historic legislation that includes a public health insurance option, guarantees that employers pay their fare share and doesn't tax our benefits.

This is a truly historic moment and one that many of us have been fighting for decades to achieve. Thank you for what you have done to make this happen. While we enjoy this success, it is important to remember the battle is far from over. The Senate still has to vote on its health care bill, and then the Senate bill will have to be combined with the House bill.

You can help by letting your representatives know that you support Health Care that includes a public health insurance option, guarantees that employers pay their fare share and doesn't tax our benefits.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS



At our Christmas Eve services, the whole offering goes to projects that help the homeless. First off, we need to pay for our "Warm Nights," the week when the church serves as a homeless shelter in late January.

Secondly, this money helps to pay for the luncheon foods that Paint Branch people serve on one Tuesday each month at "Community Café". Please be generous.

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

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The US Supreme Court has complicated my life with its November 16 announcement that it would not hear the case brought by Susan Shown Harjo, a Native American writer and activist, and seven other plaintiffs, asking that the trademarks that the Washington DC football team holds on its name, mascot, images, etc., be invalidated due to their offensive nature. The Court made its decision based on the untimeliness of the suit, not on the substantive issue of whether or not the term, 'redskins' is offensive.

Why does this matter to me? Because, I think that African-Americans vie with Native Americans for the most overtly negative images in all media in this country. When I hear the term, 'redskins,' the term, 'nigger' immediately and automatically springs into my head and heart. I say this, knowing that it puts me at odds with many among my family, friends and cohorts at church and my other communities.

One of the actions I vowed to get involved with when I retired from a fulltime career was to visibly witness and advocate on this issue. Then I wimped out. I didn't (and still don't) really want to brave the cold and taunts at FEDEX field to picket and let my voice be heard. I was counting on a favorable Supreme Court decision to let me off the hook. But, that's not the case, so now I have to act if I want to live in a city that does not think it's okay to use a derogatory term for its major sports franchise.

Hope I'll be able to talk about this with those who may not have thought about it, or with those who have and disagree.

Carol Carter Walker, co chair, DARTT

**DIVERSITY DIALOGUES:
DECEMBER 13 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 concluding the ongoing Reverberations discussion from the August 9 "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Race And Ethnicity But Were Afraid to Ask" service. The December discussion will focus on the final portion of the service presented by Tricia Most - 'Reconciliation/Next Steps.'

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 December 13 during Enrichment Hour, starting at 11:45 am.

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



In and Around Paint Branch

APRECIO POR CENA DE CHILE

(Ethnic Dinner Kudos)

The Chilean Ethnic Dinner, originally planned for May 2009, had to be postponed until Oct. 24. As a result, more people than usual were even more involved in ultimately producing it. The Ethnic Dinner committee endured two separate date selection and menu planning processes, for which we appreciate the early efforts and input of Noel Monardes (native of Chile), and of Jennifer Wright and Melissa Graham (whose son, Jamie was born in April!), even though they were unable to attend the dinner. Essential also, were the cookbooks loaned to us by Tish Hall and Diana Weatherby.

Just finding, selecting and procuring the *empanadas* alone, entailed the combined efforts of Noel, Kathy Kearns, Peter Kovac, Peter's Chilean friend, Rodrigo Alvarez, Erika Teal and Jim Dietz. Mike Stark once again oversaw set-up and took charge of the bar. Helping him were Freia Cooper, Chris Bolt, Rich O'Brien, Penny O'Brien, Don & Beth Henderson, Erika Teal and Jim Dietz. Muriel Morisey made wine punch and Ethelyn Bishop, the Pisco Sours. Sandra Roberts tended the door. Cooks included Cathy Helmold, Kathy Kearns, Tina Van Pelt, Peter and Criss Kovac, their friend Cassandra Ogren, Rene McDonald, Marilyn Pearl, Tish Hall, Adeline Wilcox, Marcie Washburn, Jane Trout, Bruce Popka, Jeri Holloway, Penny O'Brien who purchased the bread, and Paul Richards who made coffee. Chilean music was provided by Noel Monardes and Rodrigo Alvarez. Clean up was done by many already mentioned plus Nancy Boardman, Jennifer Grant, Bryan Coté, Ron Cotts, Bart Clarke and Chuck Bury who was also Building Manager for the evening. Thank you so much, all of you (plus any whose names weren't on the sign up sheet). Additional thanks to all who attended the dinner and the leftover sale the following day, and those cooks who waived reimbursement. This dinner netted \$749.68 for Paint Branch!

Thanks also to Anya Noreen Kovac for allowing Mom & Dad to attend and cook for this dinner before her birth on Nov. 12! Congratulations, Criss & Peter!

For the next dinner, we are considering Adeline Wilcox's suggestion of Senegal. She has a cookbook, but any additional input on this theme is welcome. The date, which has been on the church calendar since last spring, is Feb. 20, 2010. I've been informed several auction events may conflict, so check your calendars.

GREEN TEAM REPORT



Members exchanged green activities at their November meeting check in. You may wish to try some of these "greener" activities. Make a game of recycling birthday and Christmas cards. Use borax and sugar to combat ants. Vinegar works great against mildew.

Becky and Alan Hedin reported on activities at Beltsville Community Center. Tasks for all ages created meaningful multi-generational efforts in the protection of the Little Paint Branch and the Anacostia watershed. They encouraged us all to join the community efforts on Nov. 28 at the Beltsville Community Center.

Make Your Holidays Greener. Honor the Earth at Holiday Time: Americans throw away 25% more trash from Thanksgiving to the New Year's Holiday season. When purchasing an item, think of the end term. Will it be more trash or can you recycle or reuse it?

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that...

Has received official recognition for completing the Green Sanctuary Program.

- h Lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating sustainable lifestyles for its members as individuals and as a faith community.
- h Is committed towards creating a religious community that has a fundamental, bottom-line, commitment to living in harmony with the earth.
- h Invites congregations to embark on an exploration of what it means to live today within a religious community on an imperiled Earth.
- h Voluntary participation in the Green Sanctuary Program provides a framework for congregations and congregants to proclaim and live out their commitment to the Earth.

Sustainability Tip:

Taking shorter showers not only saves water but it saves on the tremendous amount of energy required to heat water. In fact, a ten-minute shower uses about as much energy as a 60 watt light bulb uses in 20 hours! Reduce your water and energy bills and help save the planet by limiting your showers to five minutes.

PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The PBUUC Publicity and Outreach Committee is open for business. The mission of the Publicity and Outreach committee is to find the best ways to externally publicize activities, special events, and services of Paint Branch, striving to present the best possible image of our church community and what we have to offer.

Right now we have a call out for neighborhood newsletters where we may be able to insert a free/low cost ad or submit an article about Paint Branch. Either send us an email with a web link or contact information – or even hand us a hardcopy of the newsletter! We already have some great ideas from Paint Branchers and we would love more!

The co-committee chairs are Kathy Kearns (kkearns@hotmail.com) and Theresa Brown Shute (tbshute@gmail.com) and we want to hear your ideas! We normally meet once a month on the last Thursday of the month starting at 7:00 pm. Due the November and December holiday season, we will meet Thursday, December 3, instead of the last Thursday of December.

Theresa Brown Shute



PBUUC welcomes our newest, tiniest additions to the PBUUC congregation: Karine Bouts-Towe and Charles Towe welcomed Simon Towe, Sonny and Rene Katz welcomed Constance Katz, and Criss and Peter Kovac have welcomed Anya Kovac.

Congratulations!

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SOCIALS - DECEMBER 11

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. Come and add to the fun. Set December 11 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.

PIANO GALA – MARCH 13, 2010

SAVE THE DATE! As a huge thank-you to all of you who contributed to the Piano Restoration Fund so we could complete the restoration of our Mason & Hamlin Concert Grand Piano, the PBUUC Arts Council has planned a Piano Gala for Saturday, March 13 at 7:30 pm. This concert will feature four fabulous pianists: our own “dazzling” David Chapman, “awesome” Audrey Andrist, “sensational” San-Qing Lu-Bennaman, and “show-stopping” Shaun Tirrell. Our much-missed piano is back in the Meeting House, where we are enjoying its sound in the Sunday services and recitals. Please mark your calendars and come revel in the sound that four concert pianists can elicit from such a fine instrument. A reception will follow.

CHEF'S SECRET IS PLACE FOR TWEDHUULK'S DEC. LUNCH

The Third Wednesday Hyattsville Area UU Lunch Klub will get together at Chef's Secret for our Holiday lunch. On December 16 at 1 pm, we will keep our recent tradition of celebrating together at the Thai/American restaurant located on Greenbelt Road, a half block west of the Beltway Plaza Shopping Center. It is in the parking area adjacent to Pearl Vision. Please let Marge Owens know if you can join us at 301-345-1572 or lowellowens@comcast.net.

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–

Chair	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Vice Chair	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Vice Chair	Bettie Young.....	301-490-4957
Trustee.....	Tim Illig.....	410-707-6678
Trustee.....	Ken Montville.....	301-464-8367
Trustee.....	Susannah Schiller	301-776-1887
Trustee.....	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Trustee.....	VACANT	
Trustee.....	VACANT	
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 December**ESTHER NICHOLS – 301-864-2068****–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	Sarah Michalof	301-277-1467
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 Tyrle 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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REVISED Deadlines for next two issues of *Branches*

**January – Friday, December 18
February – Wednesday, January 20**