



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 2010

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am / Two services on Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 5 HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Holiday Choir Service, with Rev. Diane Teichert and Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate

This year's Holiday Choir Service will include a traditional English carol, a Bulgarian carol (sung in Bulgarian), a Jewish prayer for peace (sung in Hebrew), a French carol, and a short holiday medley of American razz-ma-tazz. Featured instrumentalists include Deni Foster and Teresa Meeks, flutists, and Mark Cornick, percussionist.

DECEMBER 12 MOTHER MARY

Rev. Diane Teichert, with John Sebastian, Worship Associate, and Christmas Music arranged for Four Flutes
Who was Mary then? Who has she been through the ages? Who can she be now, to us? The four flutists will be Deni Foster, Theresa Meeks, John Lagerquist, and Sylvia Lagerquist.

DECEMBER 19 ALL AGES WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE

Featuring the Chalice Dancers and All Ages Holiday Choir
Rev. Diane Teichert, with Abby Crowley, Worship Associate
No RE classes, but nursery care is provided in Room 6

"Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown", as the carol goes, but this day we celebrate in song, dance, and story the pine who wears its green gown through the year's longest nights, and the oak who reigns 'til summer. Please bring mittens or other warm items for the Mitten Tree (see page 12). Holiday Dinner to follow.

DECEMBER 24 TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve collections will support programs for our homeless neighbors.
Bring your family and friends with you! No nursery care for either service.

6:30 pm ALL AGES SERVICE WITH LIVING NATIVITY SCENE

Rev. Diane Teichert and Karen Lee Scrivo, with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate

The Christmas Story will unfold in a spirited, no-rehearsal nativity pageant, with carols and candlelight. Wear your own barn animal, angel, shepherd or magi costume, or one of ours, or just watch and be enthralled. Babies through elders, all are welcome!

9:30 pm TRADITIONAL READINGS AND CAROLS

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Don Mitchell, Worship Associate
The Choir and Chalice Dancers

Come, hear, carols familiar and carols new, stories old and stories true. Bask in the glow of the candlelight. Sense the peace settling in around us on this dark night of Jesus' birth.

DECEMBER 26 HONORING KWANZAA AND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Kweli Powell, Worship Leader, with Tish Hall, Worship Associate
***No RE classes, but child care is provided ***

Kwanzaa is an annual seven-day 'first fruits' (i.e. harvest) festival that starts on December 26. It was founded in 1965 by African American scholar-activist, Maulana Karenga, only a few years after the American Unitarian and Universalist denominations consolidated in 1961. Please join us in celebrating harmonious parallels within the roots and trajectories of both traditions. DARTT is hosting a potluck brunch following the service - please bring food to share!

Table of Contents



December Services.....Front Page

Table of Contents.....2

The Minister’s mUUsings3

Notes from the Board Chairs4
 PBUUC Leasing Team- Searching for Leasing Candidates for RE Building Lower Level.....4

Religious Exploration News and Notes..... 5-6
 All –Ages Holiday Choir looking for singers6

Financial Notes6

Diversity / Anti Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) News 7-8
 Main Article – “Questioning the Status Quo”7
 DARTT Meetings8
 Kwanzaa Pot Luck8
 Martin Luther King Breakfast in January8
 Memorial Service for Forest Williams8

Green Team News9

Social Action Committee.....10
 Special Collections10
 Upcoming Events: (World AIDS, Sen. Rosapepe and Sheilah Kast to speak, UU Legislative Ministry)10

In and Around Paint Branch..... 11-14
 PBUUC HOLIDAY CALENDAR – AT A GLANCE.....11
 Further information about upcoming holiday happenings and opportunities.....12
 Music at Paint Branch Concert Series13
 Call for Artists: PBUUC Exhibition13
 Auction Update13
 Thank You Notes13
 Ethnic Dinner – Muchas Gracias14

Leadership Directory15

Deadlines for December, 2010 and January, 2011 Branches16

The Minister's mUUsings...

When Don (my spouse) and I first arrived in Malaysia a couple weeks ago, banners greeted us everywhere – in the airport, from sky scrapers, over escalators in stores, on light poles, in trains – saying “Happy Deepavali” in honor of the recent Hindu festival of lights. This was our welcome to multi-religious, multi-cultural Malaysia where Islam is the state religion, freedom of religion is the law of the land, and the other major religions are Hinduism and Buddhism. It was fascinatingly different than the US.

For an exposure to Malaysia’s religious diversity, I planned a walking tour of houses of worship in one part of Kuala Lumpur, the capitol and largest city. We visited a mosque and Buddhist, Taoist and Hindu temples all in just a few (hot and muggy) hours on foot! At the mosque, I was offered a headscarf and we were invited to circle around, but not enter, the plain open air worship space where a scattering of men prayed, it not being one of the five times people are called to pray. The temples were adorned with brilliant colors and images of deities, busy with believers enacting rituals of various kinds. There are churches in Malaysia, too, leftovers from Britain’s hundred year rule, but not in that part of the city; no sign of a synagogue; and the nearest Unitarian Universalist congregation is in Indonesia.

How “free” is religious freedom in Malaysia? I’m not sure. The government provides separate primary and secondary schools for the Muslim (Malay and some Indians), Hindu, and Chinese (mostly Buddhist, including Taoists and other sects) populations; we heard, but I don’t know the facts, that the Muslim schools have more resources than the others. Everyone attends the same colleges, though we were told that Malay students are preferentially admitted, and we were told that Malay home-buyers get a 10% break over everyone else; again, I’m not sure of the facts. At dinner one night I sat next to a woman of Chinese descent who is on the board of directors of a suburban Buddhist Association which sponsors religious and cultural activities for people of all ages – she told me that the law would frown upon them if they allowed a Malay person to attend because, she explained, “Muslims are not allowed to convert.”

Being in a majority Muslim country for ten or so days was an experience I’ll not forget. The variety of women’s headscarves and other coverings, or lack thereof, intrigued me, as did the call to prayer of the muezzin from the mosques near our hotels. It was a short and, therefore, superficial exposure, but one that gave me a new appreciation for religious diversity beyond the American experience.

Hoping to see you on Sundays,

Diane

Diane



Notes from the Board Chairs

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

A few months ago, I wrote an article about the importance and benefits of being a volunteer. As I write this month's article, Thanksgiving is fast approaching, so I'd like to take the time to recognize ***some*** of our behind the scenes volunteers, who maintain our buildings and grounds and keep our programs running smoothly. These activities are like a heartbeat to the congregation – you may not think about them, but they're essential to our well-being.

Several people led the work involved with reclaiming our space. Muriel Morisey and Abby Crowley led the Move-Out Task Force to ensure that the Montessori school moved out smoothly and on time. Polly Pettit and Peter Dowling led the Move-In Task Force, which prepared the emptied space and furnished it for our full-time occupation. Numerous other volunteers came out to clean up and paint on several workdays, and weighed in on the aesthetics, usefulness and cost effectiveness of furnishing options. Carol Carter Walker and John Bartoli are leading the Leasing Team, which is charged with identifying our first 24/7 renter of the lower floor of the RE building, and leading the work necessary to make that rental a reality.

Maintaining our buildings and grounds also takes lots of volunteer "elbow grease." The Buildings and Grounds committee, led by Paul Young, has led numerous participants in several workdays this fall to repair and paint the deck with protective stain, replace the deck stairs, redistribute the parking lot gravel, mulch the playground and paths, and do the fall cleaning of our buildings. The Green Team, led by Jennifer Robinson, has led the charge to increase the recycling collected at the church, thereby dramatically reducing the amount of trash we generate. Ron Cotts performs many of the repairs that keep the buildings in working order.

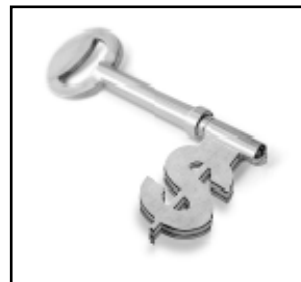
Every Sunday morning volunteers collect and count the offering, and other volunteers make coffee and clean up to enhance our conversations after the service.



I've only named a small fraction of the many people who lead and participate in these activities. To everyone whose deeds were described but remains anonymous in this article, please know that your contributions are valued and appreciated.

Susannah Schiller
Co-chair, Board of Trustees

PAINT BRANCH UU CHURCH LEASING TEAM SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR LEASE OF LOWER LEVEL, RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION BUILDING.



Your Leasing Team is set to launch ads in local newspapers and place signs on Powder Mill Road, advertising the availability of up to 1,410 square feet of space in the lower level of the RE Building. We are looking for a single renter, most likely a non-profit, but will consider two separate leases. You can help in this critical initiative by sending us any leads you may have for tenants or venues to market the space. You can talk to any member of the Leasing Team: Brenda Anna, John Bartoli, Becky Sheehan and Carol Carter Walker; or you can send your information and questions to lease@pbuuc.org.

Religious Exploration News

This holiday season, we're focusing on the Gifts of the Spirit in our Religious Exploration program. These are the kind of gifts that we can't see, but are the most precious ones we can give or receive.

They are the positive qualities that we all have inside such as kindness, love, generosity, hope, forgiveness, friendship, acceptance, and community. And priceless things, like the gift of spending time together with family and friends during this special time of the year.

I'm looking forward to having our son, Kelson, home from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, where he's a sophomore neuroscience major. We'll also be traveling to Ohio to visit my 88-year-old mom, who still lives in Lorain in the house where I grew up, and my husband Ken's parents, who are also in their 80s and live in Hubbard. We'll also see Ken's brother and sister and their grown children and their families, which this year includes the first great-grandchild!

It's time together with loved ones that I treasure more than any wrapped gift under the tree. So I'm always looking for meaningful ways to celebrate this special season of light with family and friends. I found several wonderful suggestions from *In Nature's Honor: Myths and Rituals Celebrating the Earth* by Patricia Montley.

Say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new. Let go of hurtful things or regrets. Write these down on pieces of paper, fold them up and throw them into the fireplace or a metal bowl. This has been a tradition in my family for many years. It's also a good time to make peace those who have disappointed us or ask forgiveness with those we have disappointed.



Decorate your home for solstice. Put some of nature's greenery around mirrors in your home. When you pass the mirror, remember the story of Amaterasu, the Japanese sun goddess who was enticed out of hiding by seeing her image in a mirror. Bring your best self out of hiding. Create a mandala representing the sun and the many things you enjoy because of it.

Appreciate nature's winter offerings. Greet the Winter Solstice sunrise with songs or yoga's Sun Salutation. Meet with friends on a mountaintop or your backyard and dance the sun up, welcoming it out of hiding with poems, songs and hot drinks. Or take a midday walk in the woods, noticing how different the trees and landscape looks in the winter.

Give simple gifts to celebrate the sun's return. Make gifts for family and friends such as their favorite food or holiday treat, an ornament to hang on their tree, or coupons for your time to run errands, fix dinner, play your musical instrument, decorate, plant or weed a garden, do laundry or address cards for elders. Make a birdhouse or a birdfeeder with pinecones, peanut butter and birdseed. Donate clothing and bedding to homeless shelters. Volunteer to cook or serve food in a soup kitchen such as Community Café in Hyattsville.

I'd love to hear some of your traditions for simplifying the holidays and making them meaningful. And I hope you'll join us for Friends and Family on Friday, December 10, from 6:30 to 9 pm. It will be a chance to share simple ways to celebrate the holidays, make ornaments, sing holiday songs, decorate our holiday tree, and enjoy pizza and salad.

In the meantime, wishing you and your family the gift of treasured time together during this holiday season and blessings for the coming year.

Karen Lee Scrivo
Interim Director of Religious Exploration

(RE news continues on next page)

RE NOTES:

Family and Friends Social – Simplifying the Holidays – Join us for some relaxing time with family and friends during this busy season on Friday, December 10, from 6:30 to 9 pm. We'll be enjoying pizza and salad, sharing ideas for keeping the holidays simple, make ornaments and decorate the PBUUC holiday tree. Please RSVP for pizza by Thursday, December 9, to Raman Pathik at 301-890-9072.



Parent-Teacher Teas – The Religious Exploration Committee invite you to join them for these monthly conversations about what's going on in our RE classes. They are held on the first Sunday of the month –

except in January-- during Enrichment Hour.

January's tea will be held on Sunday, January 9.

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



ALL AGES HOLIDAY CHOIR

Meet David Chapman, Music Director, on Sunday, November 28, after the service, to sign up for the All Ages Holiday Choir. The choir will meet on November 28, December 5,

and December 12, during Enrichment Hour. The Holiday choir will sing at the Sunday, December 19 All Ages Winter Solstice Service. Looking for singers ages 8 to 108! For more information, contact David at cochap@msn.com.

Financial Notes

This is a month with two important announcements, and a bookkeeping tidbit related to fundraising.

First, we have good news. We now have a new assistant treasurer, Marilyn Pearl. The Board voted to appoint her at its November meeting. As I write this she has not yet started in on this job. By the time you read this I will be teaching her the ins and outs of making the weekly deposit, reviewing bills, and the easy part – signing checks.

Second, as we approach the end of the year, it is a good time to think about keeping your pledge up to date. I will be sending out a letter in early December with an enclosure showing what you have pledged and what your payment status is. As always, if your economic circumstances change, please let us know if you need to modify your pledge.



Now comes the bookkeeping tidbit. It relates to income and expenses; they are separate things, accounted for separately – except when they're not. Your pledge donations are accounted for in an account labeled "pledges" and the mortgage is recorded as an expense on its own line.

The "except when it isn't" is when the income is closely tied to an expense. Two examples of this are the bookstore and RE snack. For example, the bookstore is a fundraising activity listed under "other income". Rather than have a separate expense line for purchasing inventory, it is recorded as "negative income" that is subtracted from book sales revenue. The RE snack works in a similar way, but since it is categorized as an expense under RE, any donations made to offset snack expense are treated as "negative expenses."

This may seem arcane, but this is useful when income and expenses are tied to the activity. The person in charge of the activity doesn't have to worry about different charge numbers, and QuickBooks makes sure things are recorded correctly when deposits are made and checks are written.

(continued on next page)

It just knows that when a check is written against an income account to subtract rather than add.

It's also useful to know this stuff if you pay attention to financial details. For example, the bookstore bought a lot of inventory before starting sales, so one of the fundraisers actually started with a negative value, which affected our overall income projections. Most people don't need to worry about this; this kind of information comes out in the discussion between the Treasurer and the Board, and is properly tracked.

But if you followed all this and your eyes didn't glaze over, or better still you found it interesting, your Finance Committee needs you! You knew I'd get around to my recruiting pitch eventually, didn't you?

Mike Stark, Treasurer

**When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To make peace among the brothers,
To make music in the heart.**

Howard Thurman

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

QUESTIONING THE STATUS QUO

Recently I have had some experiences that are deepening my questions about, (1) what it means to be White, and, (2) how to engage others in what Unitarian Universalists call the Journey Toward Wholeness – the mission to become a more inclusive religion that welcomes everyone.

Regarding the first question, the Joseph Priestley District's 6th Annual Racial Justice Conference, called *Walking the Talk: Personalizing the Journey Toward Wholeness*, provided valuable food for thought and racial group caucusing. However, the *Transforming Our Whiteness* workshop held in Annapolis two weeks later was designed especially to stimulate Caucasian people to think about our internalized racial identity, to re-learn and re-examine racial history in this country and in Unitarian Universalism, and to question the status quo. We examined how and what we learned about race in early life experiences in our families, in school, in youth organizations, in religious communities, and through the media. We asked ourselves the question: how has racism harmed me? As a White person, racism allows me to *not think* about race, to not think about how being White allows me privileges and comfortable experiences that People of Color cannot take for granted. The workshop promoted thinking about how to organize for change. We discussed specific ways to give up privilege such as "shutting up" to listen to People of Color in multi-racial settings, and seeking out situations that will challenge our comfort levels. We considered how comfortable and welcome we feel as White people. If, as a White person, I ignore race, racism, and differences in privilege, aren't I just contributing to the status quo – aren't I merely contributing in a passive way to racism in our society?

Regarding the second question, I reviewed Mark Hicks' curriculum published by the Unitarian Universalist Association called: *Building the World We Dream About: A Tapestry of Faith Program for Adults*, which is now available online to download, read, and offer for adult religious education.

(continued on next page)

[www.uua.org/tapestryoffaith] A few years ago, I attended a workshop about this curriculum while it was being developed. I was interested that the course planned to include intimate, small group discussions about reading materials, films, and personal reflection. At that time, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team at Paint Branch was already offering these experiences to our congregation through our "Anti-Racism Covenant Groups," our "Journey Toward Wholeness Film Series," and our discussion group about *Soul Work: Anti-Racist Theologies in Dialogue*, edited by Marjorie Bowers-Wheatley and Nancy Palmer Jones. The major difference is that "Building the World We Dream About" is intended to be a course offered to people who will commit to attending every session – and there are 20 sessions! Many churches have experimented with creative ways to offer the course that accommodate the realities of peoples' schedules and I expect that we will figure out a way to do that here. Will you make a commitment to attend? Will I?

Tricia Most, Co-chair, DARTT



DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM (DARTT) AGENDA PLANNING AND PLANNING MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER

DARTT is experimenting with a new method of preparing the agenda for its monthly planning meetings. On Tuesday, November 30, we'll have an agenda planning meeting, open to all. This is the place to plan the agenda for the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, December 7. Both meetings will begin at 7:30 pm in Room 1, Religious Exploration Building. If you can't attend either meeting, please submit your agenda items, ideas and other feedback to dartt@pbuuc.org.

PBUUC KWANZAA POT LUCK BRUNCH, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

At 11:30 am, following the Kwanzaa service offered by the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team, there will be a Community Pot-luck Brunch. Do you have a dish you love to make during the holidays? Bring it with you and share a meal in the spirit of community that can be found at the heart of Kwanzaa. Please RSVP to Renee Katz at raynie5@hotmail.com, or 301-928-3200, with the number of people (children and adults), type of dish, and whether you can volunteer for set-up or clean-up!

MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011



Plan ahead to attend the Martin Luther King Day breakfast on Friday on January 14, 2011. This year's featured speaker will be Freeman A. Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, co-founder of the

university's Meyerhoff Scholarship Program (designed to encourage African American men to pursue high-level academic work in science and engineering) and author of *Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Males*. Email dartt@pbuuc.org or phone Tricia Most at 301-445-2821 for more information or to make reservations.

We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race."

Kofi Annan

Green Team News

The UUA Green Sanctuary Program was inaugurated over ten years ago and 133 congregations have achieved green sanctuary status since that time. Congregations must live out their commitment to the Earth by creating sustainable lifestyles for its individual members and as a faith community.



PBUUC has taken another significant step through changes in our trash handling practices. Proof of this is in the recent addition of a second recycling can by the dumpster, as well as the reduction in size of the trash dumpster. Karine Bouis-Towe, the Green Sanctuary Team, and others, now have recycling bins in all the classrooms. The church kitchen still needs improvement. We have two large recycling bins in the kitchen, each next to a trash can. Please take care to place trash only in the trash cans and recyclables in the recycle bins. Otherwise it all gets mixed together and our efforts are in vain. A complete list of what can now be recycled is next to each recycling bin! The disposal of trash costs money where it might be possible to earn money by recycling. A gentle personal reminder at this season: Recycling is “in”, particularly in your home.

Fred Teal reports more significant steps in our efforts to use clean electricity generated by wind turbines. About 35 members switched to clean electricity during the first Green Neighborhood Challenge. All of the electricity PBUUC uses is 100% wind energy from Clean Currents, allowing the church to save several thousand dollars each year.

A new Clean Currents campaign through the Green Neighborhood initiative began October 1. Again, PBUUC will receive \$10 for each family that signs up. Thanks to all who have made the switch, and remember to renew your contracts when they come due.

What's the benefit?

1. You can save money. Clean Currents now provides wind energy for less than you are now paying to PEPCO or BGE for “dirty” energy. An average user will save about \$10.00 per month on their electric bill.

2. You will help stop global warming and climate change by reducing CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions that would normally be generated by coal and gas fired power plants. When the average user switches to wind energy it is like taking one car off the road or eliminating 7 metric tons of CO₂ that would otherwise be dumped into the atmosphere each year. This is a significant difference and you can make it happen.

Fred Teal can be found in the Foyer on most Sundays after the service with sign-up sheets, or he asks you to email him at ftealjr@yahoo.com for a form you can fill out and return to him. Or use the Clean Currents web site and sign yourself up.

Not to be overlooked are the efforts of Becky and Alan Hedin as weed warriors and their efforts to cooperate with projects in the local community.

The Green Team is on a roll, and we will be able to wave a green banner along with other Green Sanctuary congregations. More members of the congregation are urged to join in these efforts. Try it, you'll like it, and you'll be glad you did your share. The team meets during Enrichment Hour on the second Sunday of the month.

Penny O'Brien, Green Sanctuary Team



Social Action Committee

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Many thanks to all who donated to the Suitland High School Dance Department through our Special Collection on November 14. Those who made it to church bright and early after a late night at the Auction were treated to beautiful dance and vocal performances by Suitland students, and we appreciate members contributing to the school even after digging deep at our important annual fundraiser! A variety of other materials were also donated for the school, such as videotapes, books and art prints. A total of \$613.00 was collected.

Our annual Warm Nights Special Collection will be Christmas Eve. Anyone with suggestions for other Special Collections are encouraged to contact Mary Dancy at mdancy63@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commemorate World AIDS Day in Baltimore

The Baltimore-Towson area has the 5th highest rate of reported AIDS cases of all metropolitan areas in the country. Starting December 2010, Planned Parenthood will offer Rapid HIV testing at all health centers. Clients will be able to get their results in just 20 minutes, instead of a week.

To celebrate and commemorate, the Maryland Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration (IDEHA) will hold its World AIDS Day commemorative event on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, located at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore, MD. Over the last two years they have displayed the Maryland AIDS Memorial Quilt and invited community members to create and bring a quilt square to be added to the quilt. They are extending the invitation again this year for community participation. Each quilt square will be collected by IDEHA staff during the event. Contact Doreion Colter at ddoreion@msn.com.

There is also a film screening at 6:30 pm at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA), located at 10 Art Museum Drive. The film will be *The Universe of Keith Haring* by Christina Clausen. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door (cash only). Call 410-576-2150 for more details. Gertrude's, a nearby restaurant, will donate 1/3 of all dinner sales the same night to Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

Reservations are strongly suggested; call 410-889-3399.

Welcome to State Senator Jim Rosapepe and his wife, Sheilah Kast

During the Clinton Administration Jim Rosapepe served as the Ambassador to Romania, shortly after the country overthrew the Ceausescu regime. While he was there with his wife, Sheilah Kast, both energetically explored all sections of the country, including the Transylvania Mountains where there are many surviving Unitarian villages with ancient churches from the 15th century. Together they wrote a book about their years in the Bucharest Embassy, *Dracula is Dead, How Romanians survived Communism, Ended it, and Emerged since 1989 as the New Italy.* They have continued to travel in the country a part of every year since returning to Maryland, and have up -o-date information about how to travel in Romania. (Ms. Kast is also the host of *Maryland Morning*, a local radio program broadcast at 9 am most weekday mornings on 88.1, WYPR-FM.)

On Sunday, December 5, during an extended Enrichment Hour, Sen. Rosapepe and Ms. Kast will speak in Room 2, where their above mentioned book, and material from the UU Partnership Program that sponsors individuals and groups who travel to various countries to visit UU groups, will be made available. For more information, contact Marge and Lowell Owens at 301-345-1572 or lowellandmarge@comcast.net, or Erika Teal and Jim Deitz at 202-554-0498 or dietzteal@verizon.net. These PBUUC members traveled to the Unitarian villages as well as six beautiful ancient cities with help from the Partnership Program in 2009. All ages are invited!

Save the Date for the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland's Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 22, 2011 (Snow Date: Saturday, January 29, 2011), from 9:00 am-1:00 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, located at 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD. The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) is a statewide advocacy network that is composed of individual UUs. It works to mobilize and coordinate the advocacy and education of UUs on specific issues, including marriage equality.

In and Around Paint Branch

PBUUC HOLIDAY CALENDAR – 2010

A handy calendar of Holiday events
and opportunities to support UU values as you shop.

Sunday, November 28 –

Service - **CELEBRATING THE MANY FACES OF FAMILY: AN *ALL AGES* SERVICE**

Sunday, December 5 –

Service - **HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD - HOLIDAY CHOIR SERVICE**

During Enrichment Hour in the Meeting House Foyer (11:45 am to 12:45 pm):

- PBUUC Book Sale
- Handcraft Circle's Hats and Mittens Sale

Friday, December 10 – **FRIENDS & FAMILY SOCIAL: “SIMPLIFYING THE HOLIDAYS”**

Meeting House at 6:30 pm, with Rev. Diane Teichert and Karen Lee Scrivo, Interim Director of Religious Exploration. RSVP to Raman Pathik by Friday, December 9, at 301-890-9072 or at rpathik@verizon.net.

Sunday, December 12 –

Service - **MOTHER MARY**

During Enrichment Hour in the Meeting House Foyer (11:45 am to 12:45 pm):

- Alternative Gifts Table
- Handcraft Circle's Hats and Mittens Sale
- Holiday Crafts Fair - Contact Tina Van Pelt if you wish to participate, at cvanpeltah@aol.com.

Wednesday, December 15 – **THIRD WEDNESDAY HYATTSVILLE UU LUNCH KLUB (TWEdHUULK)**

HOLIDAY LUNCH at Siri's Chef Secret Restaurant at 1 pm (see p. 12), RSVP to Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net.

Friday, December 17 – **NATURE SPIRITUALITY YULE RITUAL AND POTLUCK**

Tina Van Pelt's Home at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Tina at cvanpeltah@aol.com.

Sunday, December 19 –

Service – **ALL-AGES WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE WITH HOLIDAY CHOIR, CHALICE DANCERS AND THE MITTEN TREE**

(Handcraft circle will sell Hats and Mittens prior to the service.)

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER – Meeting House at 2 pm. Please RSVP or offer to volunteer to Jan Montville at jan.montville@verizon.net by December 12.

Friday, December 24 – **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** – No child care available at either service.

ALL AGES SERVICE – 6:30 pm

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – 9:30 pm

Sunday, December 26 –

Service - **HONORING KWANZAA AND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

POT LUCK LUNCH TO FOLLOW. Please RSVP to Renee Katz at raynie5@hotmail.com or 301-928-3200.

**FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT
UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

***PAINT BRANCH BOOKSTORE OPENS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, FOR HOLIDAY
SHOPPING***

Books for kids. Books for adults. Fused glass ornaments and stained glass pendants for holiday and everyday décor. Our bookstore is a win-win for the church and for you. You can build your library and knowledge about Unitarian Universalism, have a convenient source for gift buying and raise money for the church. Ellen Cotts, Carol Carter Walker and Liese Wright are the current volunteers.

***FRIENDS AND FAMILY SOCIAL
People of all ages invited...
SIMPLIFYING THE HOLIDAYS***

Date: Friday, December 10, Time: 6:30 to 9 pm
with Rev. Diane Teichert & Karen Lee Scrivo.
Share your ways to have a stress-free season & ideas
for simplifying the Holidays!
Make Ornaments, Sing Holiday Songs
Decorate the PBUUC Tree
Pizza and Salad served at 6:30 pm. RSVP for Pizza
by Thursday, December 9, to Raman Pathik at
301-890-9072 or rpathik@verizon.net.
\$5 donation requested to cover costs.
Children 5 and under admitted free.

THE MITTEN TREE

Yes, Virginia, there is a Mitten Tree! It's an opportunity to help others that will be part of our family holiday service on Sunday, December 19. On that Sunday, bring warm outdoor clothing for all ages. Some will go to the homeless people whom we host during our "Warm Nights" week in January (mostly adult sizes), while some will go to children in low-income families at a local school. Wondering where to get these items? See the next announcement.

CAPS AND MITTENS SALE-DEC. 5, 12 & 19

The Handcraft Circle will again sell their products (caps, mittens, scarves, etc.) during Coffee Hour on December 5 and 12, and prior to the December 19th service. This money goes to support the church (the general income fund). Buy for yourself, as a gift for a friend or to contribute to others via our "Mitten Tree."

***PAINT BRANCH UU CHURCH HOSTS
ALTERNATIVE GIFTS MARKET ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12***

This year, the Social Action Committee will again host an Alternative Gifts Market on Sunday, December 12, right after service. You will have the opportunity to choose from among 41 organizations working to eliminate hunger, improve education, promote gender equality, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and other medical service delivery, and strengthen the Alternative Gifts International infrastructure, by selecting gifts to these organizations in the name of your family, friends and co-workers. A special children's Alternative Gifts Market station will be available. Each of your gifts includes a card and insert describing the specific project your gift supports. Catalogs will be available on Sunday, December 5. If you'd like more information, you can go to www.altgifts.org.

***HOLIDAY LUNCH WITH TWedHUULK,
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15***

The Third Wednesday Hyattsville Unitarian Universalist Lunch Klub will again dine together at Siri's Chef Secret, Wednesday, December 15, at 1:00 pm. This Thai/American restaurant is located at 5810 Greenbelt Road, next to a Pearl Vision store, on the north side of the street (left side as you come from Route 1). The atmosphere is soothing, the service gracious, and the menu tip-top. If you are able to join us, please contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572.

***ANNUAL PBUUC HOLIDAY MEAL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19***

The Holidays are just around the corner (believe it or not)! And we've got some fun events to plan! One of these is our Annual PBUUC Holiday Meal. This will be held on Sunday, December 19, after service. Please contact Jan Montville to help at 301-464-6297 or email her at jan.montville@verizon.net or jan.montville@ars.usda.gov.

(Planning for this event should get started very soon ... not too long after the Auction. Jan will certainly need a shot of energy and enthusiasm from other volunteers!)

MUSIC AT PAINT BRANCH CONCERT SERIES



Guitarist Magdalena Duhagon will be featured on Saturday, December 4, 2010, at 7:30 pm. Ms. Duhagon has performed extensively throughout the US, Canada,

Europe, Middle East and South America. In the United States Ms. Duhagon earned a Masters Degree in Music in Guitar Performance and Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory. At Peabody she received a Fulbright Scholarship, a Peabody Merit Scholarship, and a Fellowship from the Organization of the American States.

Jeri Holloway

CALL FOR ARTISTS: PAINT BRANCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS EXHIBITION

Our current exhibit is by members of the Visual Arts Committee + one. Exhibitors are Carmelita Carter, Emily Conover, Patrick Craig, Linda Daly-Lucas, Kim Stark, Jane Trout and Tina Van Pelt. A list with information about the work is on the pillar to the left at the back of the main room.

Our next exhibit will be artwork by members and friends of Paint Branch UU Church. We will be putting up our show in the morning of Saturday, December 11. Please make sure your artwork is *ready to be hung* and delivered to the church between 9 and 9:30 am that morning. If that is not possible bring the work at an earlier time so that we will know what needs to be hung. This exhibit will be on display through the Sunday service on January 16.

If you are planning to participate be sure you have contacted Jane Trout as soon as possible with information on the artwork, including the title, the media, the size and the price or value, if not for sale. Her phone number is 301 572-2898 and her email is jd_trout@msn.com. If we have space, everyone may exhibit up to three items. It is important that we know how much work to expect ahead of time. We'd like to have as many different artists as possible.

Jane Trout, Visual Arts Committee

OUR AUCTION ON NOVEMBER 13 WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS...!!

...judged by the over \$22,000 raised for our church, the 'roar' of laughter, and lively conversation in the meeting house during dinner, as well as the many new faces in attendance. Everyone is to be thanked and congratulated! More detail (and specific THANK YOUs) will follow in the next newsletter.

Jan Montville, on behalf of the Auction Committee

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED



From Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office, who was our Guest Preacher on Sunday, November

7, and wrote this the following week:,

"\$1,175 was raised for UU-UNO and 16 people signed up to be UU-UNO members on November 7. Congratulations to you and your congregation on becoming a UU-UNO Blue Ribbon Congregation. A plaque will be presented to your congregation at GA next year. We welcome PBUUC to this elite group of UU-UNO supporting congregations. Also, I want to thank your congregation for your wonderful hospitality. Thanks to Carla Monardes for hosting me and a wonderful dinner party. Thanks for the wonderful music and to your music director who took me to lunch and to my bus. It was a wonderful experience all around."



OLÉ, ETHNIC DINNER FIESTA! MUCHAS, MUCHAS GRACIAS!

October's Mexican Ethnic Dinner, celebrating 200 years of Mexican independence and the Mexican Day of the Dead holiday, involved not only our usual wonderful volunteers upon whom these dinners so absolutely depend, but some who performed above and beyond the norm. Canceling the May 2009 dinner and moving the May 2010 dinner to August, meant we had only 2 dinners in each of two fiscal years, an insufficiency Paint Branch really can't afford right now. To augment that, we need 4 dinners in the current fiscal year, August's dinner plus three more including October. However, Marilyn Pearl and Cathy Helmold were in Portugal with Nancy Boardman from October 8 – 23, and not able to do a dinner before that, leaving only October 30. To hold it then, someone else had to sell tickets and recruit volunteers on October 10 and 17.

So our first 3 heroes are Kathy Kearns, Marcie Washburn and Ellen Cotts who took on this task. Kathy also printed and cut out the tickets, made cookies to give out as free samples, and signed up to cook four of the dishes. Rene McDonald, with Diane Teichert and Kim Stark, set up the wonderful Dia de los Muertos altar in the Foyer. Carol Carter-Walker arranged and monitored child care in the RE building. Carmelita Carter-Sykes, seeing no one was tending the door, volunteered to do so - a bigger job than she bargained for as 70 people were expected and a total of 87 came; 88 counting baby Rochelle Richards.

Megan O'Reilly, on her very first Sunday at Paint Branch, bought a ticket for the dinner and signed up to make the Frijoles de Olla (beans). Coming to the dinner directly from the ceremony in the Glen, she pitched in to help set up the tables. Due to that event in the Glen, and the Return to Sanity Rally on the National Mall, *no one* had volunteered to do set-up. Mike Stark sent out an email plea, and Ron Cotts, Penny O'Brien, Erika Teal, Jim Dietz and Nancy Boardman responded. During the dinner Ron discovered the dishwasher was not working! Many people stepped up, notably Emily Conover, Patrick Craig and Patrick's sister and her partner who literally rolled up their sleeves and washed, dried and put away many, many dishes.

We all enjoyed a very special Mexican dish, Molé con Pollo, thanks to the combined efforts of Kathi Yu, currently working in Mexico, who purchased the Molé sauce and some items for the Dia de los Muertos altar, her husband, Fenwick, who transported them here, and Kathy Kearns who combined the Molé with chicken and prepared it for the dinner. Gracias also to Marilyn's neighbor, José, from Mexico City, who provided recorded music for the evening.

Special as these efforts were, they in no way diminish the work done by all the other volunteers, without whom, dinner after dinner, this Paint Branch tradition could not continue. As usual, Mike Stark oversaw set-up, stocked, and tended the bar, bringing a guest, Sonja Meredith, to help him with that. Cooks included Cathy Helmold, Kathy Kearns, Marcie Washburn, Melody Lawrence, Penny O'Brien, Carole Valliere, Lee Dudek, Megan O'Reilly, Adeline Wilcox, Marilyn Pearl, Tish Hall, Rene McDonald, Teresa Meeks, and Jane Trout. Chuck Bury, building manager for the evening, oversaw clean up assisted by Jennifer Grant, Bryan Coté, Nancy Boardman, Mike Stark, Sonja Meredith, Tina Van Pelt, Fenwick Yu, Don & Beth Henderson, Kathy Kearns, James Alexander, Carole, Robert and Andrew Valliere, Cory Carter, Jonathan Mawdsley, Cathy Helmold, Marilyn Pearl, Penny O'Brien and others.

So, iffy beginnings, heroes to make it happen, many volunteers to pull it off, and unexpectedly high attendance, but this dinner wasn't done with surprises yet! After the income from tickets, bar and leftovers sale were tallied, and all the cooks chased down regarding reimbursement, our Mexican dinner produced the highest income yet of any of the 55 Ethnic Dinners (drum roll, please), \$1,183! Muchas Gracias, Paint Branch!

Marilyn Pearl



PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

☞ STAFF ☞

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert	301-937-3666
Music Director and pianist	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Interim RE Director	Karen Lee Scrivo	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst/Bookkeeper	Rebecca Birnie	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
	Chuck Bury	301 799-2535
	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
	Marcus Jaeger	717-271-2847
Child Care	Kamini Wickramaratne	301-937-3666
	Beth Judy	301-937-3666

☞ OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES ☞

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

☞ CARING COMMUNITY ☞

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

☞ WE CARE COORDINATOR - DECEMBER ☞

Esther Nichols 301-864-2068

☞ WORSHIP ASSOCIATES ☞

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

☞ COMMITTEES ☞

Adult Religious Education		TBD
Aesthetics		TBD
Arts Council	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Budget Leadership		TBD
Buildings & Grounds	Paul Young	301-490-4957
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Denominational Affairs	Donald Gerson	240-293-6570
Finance	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Membership		TBD
Ministry	Muriel Morisey	301-270-2391
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Publicity & Outreach		TBD
Religious Exploration	Sarah Michailof	301-277-1467
(Co-chairs)	Sonny Katz	301-890-1599
Social Action	Nancy Boardman	301-982-3450
(Co-chairs)	Jessica Sharp	240-280-2582
Stewardship	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Visual Arts	Jane Trout	301-572-2898
We Care Network	Jeri Holloway	301-982-0758

☞ GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES ☞

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

PAINT BRANCH**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH****3215 POWDER MILL ROAD****ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030****(301) 937-3666****WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG****EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG**

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

Branches Deadlines:

- **January Edition – Monday, December 20**
- **February Edition – Thursday, January 20**