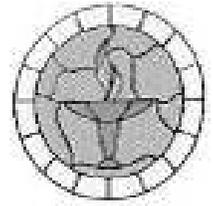




BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

MAY 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 AM

*Families with young children are invited to sit in front for a better view until the Singaway Song.
Nursery care is provided in Room 5 every Sunday from 9:45 to 12:45.*

*Coffee and Fellowship after the service,
then Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45, with child care provided.*

May 1

Beauty Before Us

Rev. Diane Teichert, John Lagerquist and Shantida with John Sebastian, Worship Associate

Join the minister, a musician and a photographer for a three-way conversation about the nature of beauty. On this day we also welcome our newest members.

May 8

In Our Mother's House

The Paint Branch Chalice Dancers with Carol Carter-Walker, Worship Associate

Also featuring the Choir and The Erika Thimey Dance Company

This Dance Service celebrating nurturing and community will include the premier performance of You Raise Me Up, the 2011 Auction dance purchased by Nancy Boardman. "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these." - George Washington Carver.

May 15

Begin With The End In Mind

*Rev. Diane Teichert and Karen Lee Scrivo, Interim Director of Religious Exploration
with Shantida, Worship Associate and the Choir*

What's been changing in our Religious Exploration program and how is our congregation growing as a result, in these nearly two "interim" years? What's germinating? What might be awaiting pollination? A child dedication ceremony will be included, and we will take up a Special Collection for CROP Hunger Walk 2011 (see page 10).

May 22

Towards An Intentional Multicultural Congregation: Next Steps In The Journey

*Rev. Diane Teichert, with Don Mitchell, Worship Associate,
And members of the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team*

This service will echo the "welcoming differences" theme for May in some of our children's Religious Exploration classes. With Rev. Marta Valentin's poem "The Resting Place Makes the Journey Doable" moving us, we will explore transformations already underway and what next commitments would need to be made for us to move toward being an intentional multicultural congregation. A "congregational conversation" will follow during Enrichment Hour in the Meeting House.

May 29

The War Prayer by Mark Twain

Dramatic reading by Donald Mitchell and Tish Hall, with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate

On this and every Memorial Day, it is timely to consider deeply Twain's poem, about which he said, "I have told the whole truth in that, and only dead men can tell the truth in this world. It can be published after I am dead."

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*“It's spring fever.... You don't quite
 know what it is you do want,
 but it just fairly makes your heart ache,
 you want it so!”*
 - Mark Twain

The Minister's mUUsings...

High Point High School held its Job Fair on Friday, April 15, from 11 am -1 pm, during Senior Class lunchtimes. It was a success for the school, and a beginning for PBUUC. Probably more of us would have volunteered if its initial description had not been for a week-long event. Perhaps others saw the initial description, decided they couldn't make that commitment, and ignored future communications from SAC announcing the final and shorter version of the event.

I really enjoyed the eighty or so students who came through. They were all calm, polite, appreciative and pleasant. Some were more confident and/or outgoing than others, as you would expect. Almost all were Black or Latino/a. All but a very few spoke English fluently. Several who came by are going to college next year such as to UMD-CP, Morehouse College in Atlanta, UMBC, and Montgomery and Prince Georges County Community Colleges. But, most seemed to be looking for jobs post-graduation. Some knew what they want to do and others didn't have a clue, pretty normal for that age.

Employers represented included Prince Georges Community Federal Credit Union (opening a new location in Bowie and hiring for all positions now – including Teller which requires only a High School diploma), the county sheriff's office, Mary Kay Cosmetics, a “green” waste-hauler that is hiring, and more. PBUUC added: yours truly with a display and handouts on local Enterprise Rent-A-Car job openings that require only a High School diploma (my son cleaned their cars when he was in college), Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson (wearing her dietitian's jacket with handouts about careers in food service) and Social Action Council Co-chair Jessica Sharp's friend who runs an elder care agency (Jessica was sick in the weeks leading up to and including the Job Fair, so could not be present and would have otherwise done more publicity, but had met with its organizer to prepare for our involvement).

The Job Fair organizer and the new acting principal thanked us, saying they felt the event went well; the Director of Guidance said they are thinking of doing it twice a year and hopes PBUUC will help. Next time, we will think of more ways to connect the students with opportunities in our own fields or through our employers, friends, family, contractors and others we know. Opportunities give a person a reason to feel hopeful!

Hoping to see you on Sundays,

Diane

minister@pbuuc.org

NOTE TO PARENTS:



If you are making Paint Branch UU Church your spiritual home and want to dedicate your child/ren here, the child dedication ceremony will be part of the service on Sunday, May 15. Children of any age can be included. It is designed as an opportunity for parents to dedicate themselves to "raising their children in the ways of love and justice" in our world and for the congregation to dedicate itself to the welcoming and nurturing of these children. It also involves a blessing, a rose

without thorns, and a certificate of child dedication. It is appropriate to invite close family and friends to attend if you wish, but not expected. Please let me or Karen Lee Scrivo know if you would like more information.

Religious Exploration News

The Winds of Change are in the Air

If you're familiar with the movie, "Mary Poppins," you'll recall that everyone's favorite nanny promises to stay with the Banks family only until "the winds change." That day arrives when the usually overworked and humorless Mr. Banks invites his children – Jane and Michael – to join him for a fun-filled day of kite-flying. Seeing this transformation, Mary Poppins knows that her work there is done and it's time to move on.

Looking at all the wonderful transformations in the Religious Exploration program here at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church during the past 19 months, I know that the winds will be changing here soon. And it will be time for me to move on and for you to welcome your new settled Director of Religious Exploration.

In the meantime, this is a good time to look back at what's been accomplished and congratulate yourselves on a job well done. The congregation is very fortunate to have staff, lay leadership and members dedicated to creating and sustaining a vibrant religious exploration program for children and youth and including them in the life of this beloved spiritual community.

While many things have contributed to your success, I believe that the congregation's commitment to a two-year interim process has provided the needed time and space to thoughtfully assess the RE program as well as plan for the future.

One of the important tasks of the interim period has been the congregation discovering and articulating its unique vision of religious exploration for children and youth.

As part of that process, some 30 congregational leaders and interested members shared their hopes and dreams in an RE Workshop last year led by Pat Infante, then Lifespan Faith Development consultant for the Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. (Pat is now the Regional Consultant for Faith Development for the larger Central East Regional Group, which includes the JPD.)

What began to emerge was a vision of an RE program that develops Unitarian Universalist identity, creates strong friendships, embraces and celebrates diversity, provides opportunities for multigenerational activities, makes use of the church's beautiful grounds and offers children and youth a place to become their true and wonderful selves.

As a result, we've chosen new curricula aimed at exploring our Unitarian Universalist faith, living out our principles and exploring how we can make a difference in the world. We have also included units on living in harmony with nature, embracing and celebrating diversity and learning about Bible stories and other religions. Our children have also participated in monthly Children's Chapels on themes reflecting what's happening in their RE classes.

Meanwhile, Rev. Diane Teichert and I have worked to coordinate worship and RE themes throughout the year. In an effort to celebrate our multigenerational community, we moved this fall to include children and youth for the first part of all our services and to involve all ages in Together Time. And our youth group focused their service, which featured Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*, to our 7th Principle theme of caring for the Earth.

(continued next page)

We've also worked to make our All Ages service engaging and interactive in ways that speak to children, youth and adults and involve people of many ages. This year, our All Ages services have ranged from our In-Gathering service, "What Will You Bring to the Feast?", to a modern Bible story – "Babble", to the Earth Day service that included ways that we can help save our planet.

It's also been gratifying to see committees and activity chairs looking for ways to involve children and youth and create activities that span the generations.

The RE program has been involved in social action activities such as Warm Nights, Green Team efforts such as recycling and gardening, social gatherings such as Ethnic Dinners and Family and Friends Social, and congregational activities such as Diane's Installation, Stewardship Sunday and the Reclaiming Our Space Town Hall meetings.

This congregation has also been blessed to have a small but active RE Committee that has grown in the last two years both in numbers and initiative. This year, the committee began hosting monthly Parent-Teacher teas and has participated in the Pathway to Membership gathering, the Curricula Review Team, and recruiting and supporting teachers and volunteers as well as coordinating RE activities such as the Re Open House, Fall Fest and Easter Egg hunt.

In addition to the RE Committee, our wonderful RE volunteers have played an important role in teaching and assisting in our classrooms and sharing their time and talents with our children and youth. These talented volunteers have included both those with children and youth in the program as well as other members of the congregation.

During the interim period, Kweli Powell joined the staff as RE Assistant and Beth Judy was added to our paid child care staff. How fortunate the congregation is to have them working on your behalf along with Diane, Church Administrator Daniel Everitt, Music Director David Chapman, Chalice Dancers' Director Sharon Werth, Nursery Caregiver Kamini Wickramaratne, and Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Rebecca Birnie as part of a team that celebrates and supports PBUUC's children and youth.

Of course you can't support a vibrant RE program if you don't know about it! So throughout these past 19 months, I have worked to improve communications regarding RE programs with the staff, teachers, parents, and the rest of the congregation.

While the winds of change are definitely in the air, we will be spending these last months tying up loose ends, evaluating the interim period and preparing for your new Director of Religious Exploration. I welcome your thoughts and participation as we embark on the last leg of our journey together.

Blessed be,



Karen Lee Scrivo
Interim Director of Religious Exploration

RE Events in May and June – Mark Your Calendar!

May 1 – Parent-Teacher RE Tea – Join the RE Committee for this monthly conversation in the Kelley Room during Enrichment Hour. In this final tea of the church year, we will be assessing the past year and preparing to welcome the new DRE. Light refreshments and child care provided.

May 15 – Begin with the End in Mind – In this service, Rev. Diane Teichert and Interim Director of Religious Exploration Karen Lee Scervo will reflect on what's been changing in our RE program and how the congregation has grown in these two "interim" years. **After the service, join the RE Committee in a farewell party for Karen.**

May 29 – NO RE Classes due to Memorial Day holiday. Child care only.

June 5 - RE Teacher and Volunteer Brunch – The RE Committee honors our fabulous RE teachers and dedicated RE volunteers with brunch from 11:30 am to 1 pm in the Kelley Room.



June 11 – RE Sunday Rehearsal from 10 am to 12 Noon in the Meeting House.

June 12 – RE Sunday – Our RE classes share what they've been learning this year in this All Ages service that closes out the church year.

June 19 – Summer Fun RE Program Begins. This multi-age program for children ages 4 and up during our Summer Services runs until the In-Gathering service in September. Child Care is available for infants and younger children. If you're interested in volunteering, contact RE Co-Chair Sarah Michailof at minnesarah@yahoo.com.

June 30 – Interim DRE Karen Lee Scervo's last day. ☹️

Ongoing projects

- **A Gift for the New DRE** – The RE Committee is working hard to have teachers and assistants in place for the 2011-12 RE program when the new DRE starts in August. If you feel called to teach or assist, please contact RE Committee Co-Chairs Sarah Michailof at minnesarah@yahoo.com or Sonny Katz at katz.sanjeev@bls.gov. For more information about curricula or other ways to share your time and talent with our children and youth, contact Interim DRE Karen Lee Scervo at idre@pbucc.org.
- **Summer Gardening** – We'll need many hands to keep up the RE Garden this summer. If you're interested in helping out, contact Green Team Co-Chair Karine Bouis-Towe at ktowema@yahoo.com.



From the UUA and UUSC

UUA President Rev. Peter Morales and UUSC President Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz have released the following joint statement on the ongoing crisis in Japan. To donate to the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund, visit <http://tinyurl.com/3p7bsbt>.

Dear friends,

More than a month after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, roughly 12,000 people are dead, 15,000 are missing, and more than 500,000 are displaced. Japan is also coping with a nuclear crisis that is being compared to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

The heart-wrenching situation changes day by day, but help is on the way. Thanks to very generous donations from Unitarian Universalists (UU) and our congregations across the country, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)-Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Japan Relief Fund has raised more than \$200,000, which will aid in the recovery efforts.

The Rev. Eric Cherry, the UUA's director of International Resources, recently traveled to Japan to meet with our partner groups. Rissho Kosei-kai (RKK), one of our religious partners, shared that their assessment team is reporting severe devastation among their congregations. Read more in the UU World article "UUA-UUSC Japan Fund Supports Religious Partners After Quake": <http://tinyurl.com/6lbqh6r>.

Your generous support is still needed to alleviate the suffering of the Japanese people and help rebuild their lives. Please give generously today, at <http://tinyurl.com/3p7bsbt>. Your immediate support will help RKK congregations provide shelter to people who are homeless, and bring food, clothing, fuel, and other supplies. The Fund will also provide support to our other partners in Japan, as well as help in the long-term recovery efforts. With your help, we can bring relief and hope to the people of Japan. Thank you.

In faith,

The Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President

The Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz, UUSC President

Financial Notes

Show me the Money, Part II

Last month, as you might guess, was "Show me the Money, Part I", in which I discussed our operating budget and the Church's assets. This month I will talk about liabilities and equity; next month I will present an example that ties all these concepts together. As I did last month, I will not use a single number, but the equation - $ASSETS = LIABILITIES + EQUITY$ - is still important.

Liabilities are claims on our assets, by outside organizations. The main liability is the building mortgage. We also have "pass through funds" for money we collect and send on (such as the monthly special collections), and several accounts to store early donations and payments that are intended for the next fiscal year. This reminds me - *if you are paying a pledge for 2011-12 year rather than 2010-11, please note it on the memo of the check so we account for it properly.*

Equity is how we allocate the rest of our assets. In your personal finance, that might simply be expressed as your net worth without any further description of what is to be done with that. With the exception of what we call "Undesignated reserves", the church does not have that luxury. There are many claims on these funds, the list below shows how they are organized as equity:

- *Restricted Funds* - these are funds with conditions on how they are spent. For example, the Legacy Fund is restricted to special one-time projects such as our Web site upgrade or the high speed dishwasher now in our kitchen.
- *Custodial Funds* - this is money we hold for people and organizations outside of PBUUC's main program. One example of this is that we hold money for the Riderwood Chaplaincy program.
- *Activity Funds* - we have some activities that are more effectively run off the balance sheet than from the operating budget. Notable among them is the Youth Group and the Community Café. (continued on next page)

- *Reserve Funds* – these are mainly funds saving money for long term or infrequent expenses. The Piano Reserve is where money was accumulated for the piano upgrade a few years ago, and it is rebuilding this fund for the inevitable next time.
- *Undesignated Reserves* – the accumulation of net income over the years. At the end of each fiscal year the surplus or deficit is added to this and we restart with a clean sheet for the new fiscal year.

So there you have it, a brief tour of our books, without a single number! Next month I will show an example that shows how the parts can tie together to tell a story. But be warned, there will be numbers.

*Mike Stark, Treasurer
mstark@pbuuc.org*

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

Taking Paint Branch's Diversity Initiative to the Next Level

Since August 2007, when DARTT was authorized by the Board of Trustees to enter into a conversation on diversity issues with the Paint Branch community, many of you have been keeping up with DARTT through Branches, conversations with DARTT leaders and others, and through participation in discussions and workshops. We started with a film series, then went on to covenant groups and many varied activities. The Ysaye Barnwell workshop is one DARTT sponsored event that people still talk about. DARTT has made great progress in bringing diversity issues to the forefront of the church's collective mindset and won the 2010 JPD Journey Toward Wholeness Award for diversity programs. Nonetheless, it may be fitting to think about new directions for the future.

At the April DARTT meeting, we discussed Rev. Diane Teichert's vision for the "Next Level" of transformation here at Paint Branch, which she will also be presenting in her sermon on May 22.

It will be followed by an Enrichment Hour "community conversation" during which DARTT will gain ideas for a resolution to bring to the Congregational meeting on June 12. The goal of this resolution would be to move us toward being an intentionally multi-racial, multi-cultural congregation. Paint Branch must begin to look at all of our programs and processes with the intent to become a more diverse, more welcoming church community. This will mean taking an in-depth look at ourselves at every level, at every phase of all that we do. This will mean thinking deeply about how we appear to racial and ethnic minorities. What does a person of color see when he/she walks in our church? What does a person of an ethnic minority hear when she/he attends an enrichment hour activity? These are some of the many questions that will face us on this journey.

At the April DARTT meeting, the discussion brought out various points of view, many suggestions, many questions. The next level may require training and practice at the congregational level. And it will require mindful, reflective thinking. And more – and continuous – thinking "outside the box". And yes, it will require soul searching. This initiative will also require your time. However, in order to be true to our Unitarian-Universalist beliefs and ideals, I think the time is now. I hope you will listen to Diane's plan for the "next level" diversity initiative and I hope you will support it. If it is enacted at the Congregational meeting, then the Paint Branch community will move forward toward becoming a mindful diversity-conscious, welcoming, nurturing community. Will YOU join us?

Evangeline Wells



Social Action Committee News (SAC)

Marriage Equality

We're already moving ahead with our Equality Maryland partners to build a stronger statewide movement with the lessons learned from this year. For example our weekly Paint Branch Phone Bank will start again on Monday evening, May 2, at 6:30 pm in Rooms 2/3 of the Religious Exploration Building and continue through mid-June. Please join us! We'll be contacting likely supporters to help build a larger base for GLBT issues. We'll especially focus on the parts of Maryland where support for marriage equality and transgender anti-discrimination legislation needs to be strengthened.

Our minister, Rev. Diane Teichert, has been in planning meetings looking toward organizing a Prince George's clergy group to mobilize clergy support for marriage equality and gender identity rights – with public forums a possibility as well as one-to-one conversations.

We can become involved too. Equality Maryland staff are planning an educational canvassing program where they train supporters (Read activist folks like us!) to go to key districts and visit door-to-door engaging in non-confrontational constructive conversations with people at their front doors. Stay tuned as more information about these plans is finalized.

Recently some of us were thinking how having some dialog groups might also be a very personal and effective way to reach out to others about GLBT issues. Recently as a reminder about the legislative progress made this year; the Executive Director of Equality Maryland wrote that this was the first time either of the bills made it out of a single committee. Each also had more than 50 co-sponsors in the House of Delegates – including bipartisan support.

For those of us sitting in the House gallery the night of the final vote – while the disappointment was huge as the marriage equality bill was sent back to committee – when we learned it only needed 1 or 2 votes more to pass we, also realized the enormous distance it had come in a few short years! Now we are looking ahead with determination and confidence that with our hard work again next year – it will become law!

Supporting LGBTQ Youth

On Saturday, May 7, you can support LGBTQ youth at a Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) program at the Chalice House of Cedar Lane UU Congregation.

The program is entitled “Supporting LGBTQ Youth: Community Needs and Resources” and is from 1-5 pm in the Chalice House located at 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD. The keynote speaker will be Linda Goldman, an educator, therapist, and author who wrote *Coming Out, Coming In: Nurturing the Well-Being and Inclusion of Gay Youth*. Four workshops will also be held, each attendee may be present at two of them. The four workshops are: *Needs of Transgender Youth and Resources*, *Tell Your Story: Coming Out as a Parent of an LGBTQ Youth*, *The Bridge Between Clinical and Religious Thought on LGBTQ Issues*, and *the LGBTQ Person of Color Community Special Concerns*.

Please RSVP to register by Monday, May 2, if possible, to help with program planning. You can send your name, congregation, and phone number and/ or e-mail to info@uusj.org or call UUSJ at 301-588-1951. You may also fax your information to 301-588-5257. There are also some flyers in the Meeting House Foyer at Paint Branch about this important event. We hope that many Paint Branchers will be able to attend!



Green Man Festival, Saturday, May 7-8



Paint Branch will have a table at the Green Man Festival in Greenbelt on Saturday, May 7, and Sunday, May 8. Thanks to our own Marge Owens! This is a wonderful "Green" in spirit local festival with music, food, and all sorts of displays and organizations represented. It is so good that Paint Branch will join this like-minded community gathering and that we'll have the opportunity for more folks to learn about us too! But Marge needs help to line up volunteers for our table. The hours are Saturday, May 7, from 9 am to 8 pm and on Sunday, May 8, from 11 am to 6 pm. Please contact Marge ASAP with when you can help out! Her telephone number is 301-345-1572. Her email is lowellandmarge@verizon.net. Thanks so much. This is time you'll be sure to enjoy in the historic center of Old Greenbelt!

Capital Pride Festival – June 11-12

Mark Your Calendars for the Weekend of June 11-12. It's the Capital Pride Festival! Paint Branch is joining with other area UU congregations to have both a UU contingent in the DC Pride Parade on Saturday, June 11. (Let's make it one of the largest in the parade!) and our own UU booth too – to represent our regional UU churches. Plans are still in the early stages, but we know we'll need volunteers for the UU Booth and, of course, let's turn out in enthusiastic and large number for the parade! (*Editor's note: Visit www.capitalpride.org for more info.*)

Some SAC members have made personal donations for our cost share to the UU Church of Arlington - which is the main coordinator for our UU churches. Nancy Boardman will be our contact point for Paint Branch. She'll be in touch as the plans are firmed up so we can have sign-up for volunteers at the UU booth that weekend, and details about the timing and location of the parade. Also, think about what to wear so our UU contingent stands out. Perhaps "Standing on the Side of Love" T-shirts? Stay tuned for more information to follow in our PBUUC list serve and church bulletins as plans are firmed up during May.

Social Action Committee meeting dates and times for May and June.

We'll meet on Saturdays at 10 am; May 21 in Room 1, and June 18 in the Kelley Room of the RE Building. Currently no SAC meetings have been scheduled for July and August, although some fall planning will be needed during those summer months. We welcome new members! And of course always want more of you joining SAC – as we live out our UU values in social justice causes.

Reminder: CROP Walk and Special Collection

The CROP Walk 2011 will take place on Sunday, May 1 around Lake Artemisia. The CROP Special Collection will follow on Sunday, May 15. Twenty five percent of our donations will support Help By Phone, a local non-profit organization that provides food for families in emergency need in our neighborhoods. You can help. Give generously to CROP.

Esther Nichols

Special Collections

The Social Action Committee is thankful to the community of PBUUC for their generous donations during the special collections that are held on a monthly basis to benefit local, national or international charity causes related to our focus on social justice. Occasionally, the Committee will take up a second extraordinary collection in a given month for urgent causes.

We are happy to report the support received from our most recent collections:

Date	Recipient	Amount
February 20	College Bound	\$525
March 20	UUSJ	\$790
April 3	UUA Japan Relief Fund (Extraordinary)	\$1,240
April 17	Chesapeake Climate Action Network	\$691

We welcome the involvement of the PBUUC Church community in making suggestions for special collections. If you would like to make a suggestion, please send your information to Mary Dancy at mdancy63@gmail.com.

Green Team News

More than ten people scavenged through and around the woods of the Paint Branch Creek Watershed on Sunday, May 10, discovering hidden beauties. Alan and Becky Hedin provided a list, which identified leaves that could be used in a salad, a fairy umbrella, a shrub that has food for wildlife, and catkins, among others. In addition, Marc Imlay, Prince George's Park Ranger, contributed information about butterfly and plant associations. Consult the Paint Branch website (www.pbuuc.org) and click on *social action*, then on the *green team*. If you click on *take action* you will find a picture taken of our walk by Don Gerson.

We now have an RE garden, which was completed by 8 adults and 6 children. Thank you all who came and those who donated items but couldn't make the event. We will plant our first seeds on Earth Day. We hope to donate some of our harvest to Ethnic dinners and to the children and adults who will tend the gardens. Future plans include an annual fundraiser in July selling garlic bulbs from the RE garden that grew during the winter.

As we work to increase recycling at the church we are adding the composting of kitchen waste (including paper dishware and cups) to our efforts. We ask that you use the orange five gallon buckets with lids that are in the two kitchens, following the directions that will be posted next to the buckets. If you want to start collecting your kitchen waste at home and dump it into the outside compost piles at church (near the garden) we welcome this. In the beginning, we will not compost animal products. We will use the finished compost to recycle nutrients back into our garden to keep the soil healthy and our garden productive.

The next meeting of the Green Sanctuary Team will be on Sunday, May 8, during Enrichment Hour. You are invited to join us as we work together towards our Green Sanctuary goal. Watch the growth in the RE Garden beds when you come to church. This is an important practical learning experience for our youth.

Penny O'Brien, Green Sanctuary Team



In and Around Paint Branch

May Update: The PBUUC Head and Heart History Group (H3G)

Several H3G events took place this month. The 'Historical-Buddha Reading Circle' met at the church on April 10. Also, we held our monthly 'History and Fellowship Gathering' at a private Greenbelt residence on Friday, April 8. My impression was that both gatherings went well!

Also, for the first time ever, two groups, related to another facet of my history-linked personal interests, held their meetings at PBUUC. These groups center on a personal spiritual aim of mine to continually strive to authentically learn about, and (thereby) make peace with my various cultural-historical ancestral lineages.

Specifically, last summer, inspired by our core UU goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, as well as the recent Gulf of Mexico oil debacle (etc...), it struck me that we, as members of Western society, might do well to re-examine our values. Hence, that fall, I invited various members of my personal PBUUC network to come together in an initiative that was intended to lead to novel spiritual enrichment and growth; particularly in both: (a) our society's efforts to help its members heal from the legacies of our (and/or our ancestors') various politically-war-torn pasts, and, (b) rooting humanity back into the tree of life such that we more sincerely view the suffering of other humans, animals, and plants as that of our living cousins; our family.

(continued on next page)

With this aim, two women's covenant groups were launched. Both centered on reading books about the history of human lineages shared (in some heartfelt, sincere way) by all members of said groups. The first was a women's covenant group for novices to Celtic culture and spirituality. The second was a women's covenant group for descendants of American (US) slaves.

Both groups have been meeting in private homes once per month since last fall. However, given that their aims clearly fall under the umbrella of history, the recent BOT clearance of H3G's charter opened up the option of holding them at PBUUC. The two meetings this month, both of which went well, marked the first time either group has utilized this option.

For further details on any of PBUUC's H3G initiatives, please send an email to headhearthistory@pbuuc.org.

Kweli Powell, coordinator

Ethnic Dinners ~ In the Land Of The Rising Sun

We've been considering a Japanese Ethnic Dinner for years, but found it intimidating. Japanese food, usually prepared very quickly in small amounts, served and eaten immediately, is not ideally suited for dinners in which food is cooked in large quantities preferably in advance. So, we kept thinking, "maybe later". Then on March 11, the earth moved. Japan suffered a devastating 9.1 earthquake and catastrophic tsunami causing a nuclear plant explosion. This all occurred as we were looking for a theme for our May dinner. Four people had suggestions; three of them, Japan. It's still intimidating, but if we are ever to try this cuisine, the time is obviously now; more precisely, Saturday, May 14, at 6:30 pm.

There are some dishes we can't do, like deep-fried tempura, hot pots in which food is cooked in simmering broth at the table, and a few others for which the ingredients may be impossible to find.

But we think we have a great menu, and will do our best to produce a dinner which will pay honorable tribute to the Japanese people.

Our menu does include *Sushi*, some of which contains *Sashimi* (raw fish). We have served raw fish dishes at 5 previous dinners, and know how to handle and serve it safely. It will be clearly labeled so you can choose between the sushi with sashimi and sushi with other fillings such as smoked salmon, cooked shrimp, or just vegetables. We promise, no *Fugu* (potentially lethal blowfish). Our menu also includes *Gyoso* (pork dumplings), *Yakatori* (skewered chicken), *Miso* and *Udon* soups, salad with sesame dressing, entrees of fish cakes, beef Teriyaki and gingered pork, side dishes of rice, noodles, and vegetables, and desserts of fruit salad, gingered pears and beans (Yes! Beans!). Beverages will include green tea, and at the bar, Japanese Sake, beer and wines.

If you have dietary restrictions, this may be the perfect dinner for you! Japanese cuisine is very vegetarian and vegan friendly. There are many gluten-free dishes, and very few contain dairy products. Check out our full menu at the ticket table, and tell us what ingredients you want to avoid.

We always need many volunteers for a variety of tasks – cooking, setting up, tending the door, helping with the bar, and cleaning up. We need to borrow CDs of Japanese music, and we're looking for people who know Origami and Japanese flower arranging.

Free on-site childcare will be available, but we must know by Sunday, May 8, if you require it.

Tickets will be available, \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children 4-11, following services on May 1 and 8. If you have a coupon for a free ticket, please bring it to the ticket table on one of those dates. Anyone not able to obtain their tickets then, and those who think there is *even a possibility* they will come to the dinner, PLEASE call for a reservation before Tuesday, May 10, so the cooks know how many may be coming. Contact me at 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

Marilyn Pearl, coordinator

Nature Spirituality Circle (NSC)

The Nature Spirituality Circle explores Earth-centered religions of various traditions. We celebrate the turning of the Wheel of the Year with Sabbat rituals that draw upon a wide variety of pagan traditions. In addition, NSC is sponsoring Wicca 101 classes on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during Enrichment Hour (11:45 am to 1:00 pm). Each class is taught as a stand-alone topic, and drop-ins are welcome. These classes are led by Tabitha Pierzchala, a Wiccan Priestess in the Georgian Tradition. Both Sabbats and Wicca 101 classes are open to all interested seekers.

For additional information on NSC, please visit our webpages which can be found at <http://www.pbuuc.org/worship/naturespirituality/index.html>, or join our list serve. All Nature Spirituality Circle events are posted on the Circle's main list serve: PBUUC-NSC@yahoogroups.com. This mailing list can be joined by sending a blank e-mail message to PBUUC-NSC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. For information on any of the events listed below, please contact Tabitha at tabidee@aol.com or 206-290-9831.

May NSC offerings:

- **May 1: Maypole Dance and Beltane Sabbat ritual.**

Anyone with an inner child is welcome to join us as well. We will meet in the Glen behind the church at 11:30 on Sunday, May 1. No advanced knowledge



or experienced is needed to dance a Maypole! Both kids and grown-ups are most welcome to jump right in, or stay on the sidelines to watch or share in the singing, drumming & rattle shaking!

- **May 8: Wicca 101 class on the Wheel of the Year**

This week, we will explore the 8 Sabbats that make up the Wiccan liturgical year. When are the Sabbats and what are they celebrating? Each class is taught as a stand-alone topic, and drop-ins are welcome.

- **May 22: Wicca 101 class on the Science of Magick (part 1)**

In this session, we will focus on the Western Magick elemental associations for Earth, Air, Fire and Water. We will also compare elemental systems (Western 4 element system to Eastern 5 element system). Each class is taught as a stand-alone topic, and drop-ins are welcome.

Colorful and Inventive PBUUC Website Designs for your review

Your opinions and preferences are sought regarding the prospective design of our PBUUC website. Our skilled webmaster, Mark Shute, in tandem with an inventive graphic artist, and with guidance from congregational staff and leadership,



has developed three different mock-ups of a possible PBUUC website, each exhibiting innovative and enticing website styles. We invite you to take a look at

these designs by visiting <http://pbuuc.org/new/>. You will also be able to see these designs after the service on Sunday, May 8, when laptops will be brought into the Foyer. You can let us know which website style is preferred.

When you arrive at the front page of the above link, you will see each of the three proposed styles. Below each is a link where you can more closely examine each individual option. While these are not fully functioning websites, these webpages will give you an opportunity to view each layout option. Your comments and preferences for the website design you favor are genuinely welcomed and anticipated; please submit your views to webmaster@pbuuc.org.

Daniel Everitt, Church Administrator

Spring LGBTQ Spring Dance And Social – Saturday, May 14

The Prince George's County Youth Equality Project invites Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and youth allies (ages 14 to 21) to "trip the light fantastic" at the LGBTQ Youth Spring Dance and Social. This great evening of fun, food, and fabulous moves will be held at the Prince George's Plaza Community Center, located at 6600 Adelphi Road in Hyattsville; a 15 minute



walk from the Prince George's Plaza Metro Station on the Green Line. A pre-dance youth activity will start the evening at 6 pm, followed by the Dance from 7 to 10 pm. All youth are invited to help create a safe, enjoyable atmosphere in which to relax, enjoy great dance music and feast on tasty delights. For more information, check out the Prince George's County Youth Equality Project on Facebook, or call the PG Plaza Community Center at 301-864-1611.

walk from the Prince George's Plaza Metro Station on the Green Line. A pre-dance youth activity will start the evening at 6 pm, followed by the Dance from 7 to 10 pm. All youth are invited to help create a safe, enjoyable atmosphere in which to relax, enjoy great dance music and feast on tasty delights. For more information, check out the Prince George's County Youth Equality Project on Facebook, or call the PG Plaza Community Center at 301-864-1611.

Music at Paint Branch Concert Series

The Arts Council of Paint Branch presents wonderful concerts in our beautiful space. Mark your calendars for future exciting and free concerts in the Meeting House.

- Sunday, May 8, will feature the Millennium Ensemble providing a variety of instruments and music. The concert will begin at 5 pm and a reception will follow.
- Sunday, May 22, will feature Michelle Howard-Hanson, soprano and our own Allison Hughes, mezzo soprano. It will feature the music of Pergolesi, Mozart, Mahler, Strauss, and Massenet. The concert will begin at 4 pm.

Please support the arts; attend these concerts and bring friends and relatives.

Jeri Holloway

Looking For Some Enrichment and Fun This Summer?

Attend a UU camp or conference! Check them out on-line or find brochures in the Foyer of the Meeting House. Some programs are intergenerational and others are age-specific.



The closest one is a terrific (and very welcoming of newcomers!) week of programming for all ages in age-specific groupings and intergenerational groups. Many PBUUCers attend. It's called UUMAC (UU Mid-Atlantic Community) and it's held from July 17 - 23, 2011 at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. Visit: www.uumac.org.

Next closest is SUUSI, the weeklong Southeast UU Summer Institute in Radnor, VA, from July 17-23. (www.suusi.org).

Farther away, there are three Camp and Conference Centers in New England:

- Rowe in Rowe, MA (<http://www.rowecenter.org>);
- Ferry Beach in Saco, ME (<http://www.ferrybeach.org>);
- and Star Island, off the coast near Portsmouth, NH (<http://www.starisland.org>).

Our own Rev. Teichert has been invited to be the Minister of the Week at Star Island for the Life on a Star Family Conference II from Saturday, August 20 to Saturday, August 27.

These camps and conferences are wonderful ways to experience an intentional UU community, make new friends and rekindle old friendships, and grow as UUs in fun and deep ways!

Lunch at Plato's Diner Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00

The Third Wednesday Hyattsville UU Lunch Club (TWedHUULK) chose the Greek Diner just south of campus town on Route 1 (Baltimore Avenue) for our May event. We have often had a good time at this restaurant, which has a few Greek specialties plus a long menu of standard American diner items. Driving south on Route 1, pass the main part of campus town and watch for Plato's on the right side of the street next to the motel. Contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572 if you plan to join us, or just come.

With Gratitude

From Ellen and Ron Cotts

Thanks to each and every one of you who came to our farewell party, helped plan and put on the party and/or contributed to the Legacy Fund in our honor. We have so many warm memories and we thank you for each of them. We can't possibly write each one of you individually but our appreciation is heartfelt nonetheless.

We are now in our new apartment in Colorado, which of course means we will not be with you in church this Sunday or for the foreseeable future. But the truth is we will always be with you in spirit and will always feel a part of PBUUC. We hope to visit from time to time but for the moment we are just trying to sort out the boxes. We will continue to read Branches with interest and will welcome friends to visit us in Boulder where we have a guest room at the ready.

It has been a joy to be a part of the congregation for the past seven years. From our first warm welcome through some of the financial and building struggles, the church continually offered a model for how to be with one another. A community of shared values indeed!

Thank you once again.

With love and admiration, Ron and Ellen Cotts

12-Day Human Rights Trip to Israel/Palestine, including East Jerusalem and the West Bank

July 16 – 27

**Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists
for Justice in the Middle East
Led by Don McInnes, immediate past
President of UUJME, his 4th UUJME
Human Rights Trip**

Join the tour for an extraordinary and unforgettable experience. Meet with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists and political leaders, Israelis from both ends of the political spectrum, and members of Hamas and Fatah.

Visit one or more Jewish settlements and the separation wall/ fence, and experience checkpoints. Visit:

- East Jerusalem, including the Old City and Western Wall,
- the Dome of the Rock,
- the Al Aqsa Mosque, and,
- the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Spend two nights in Palestinian homes and tour several West Bank cities as well as Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth, and the Galilee area. Provide moral support for those working on the ground for a just peace, then return energized and informed to work more effectively for a just peace from here.

Estimated cost \$2,400, including comfortable hotel rooms with private bath, ground transportation, guide, meals, gratuities, and trip leader fee. This does not include air fare or transportation to and from airport in US or in Tel Aviv.

For more information and/or to join the trip contact Don McInnes at 617-661-9000 or don@3mlaw.com. For more information about UUJME, visit <http://www.uujme.org>.

Administrative Services and Offerings

Name Tags: If your well-used name tag is looking worn, and you would like a fresh new tag, go to the welcome table and place your request on the name tag sign-up sheet. Your new name tag will be in the basket by the following week.

Congregational Directories: Lost your copy of the church directory or need an additional copy? Contact the church office at or 301-937-3666 or churchadmin@pbuuc.org and we'll have one ready for you to pick up by the following Sunday.

Printed Calendars in RE Building: If you are in the RE building, and what to see what other activities are happening in the next two weeks, there are updated activities calendars posted at the front entrance bulletin board, on the bulletin board nearest the Hospitality Room, and on the bulletin board by the Boredale Road entrance. You'll see the name of the group, time of their activity and location.

Pledge Statements: Wondering if you have filled your pledge for this year? Feel free to contact Rebecca Birnie at rbirnie@pbuuc.org. She is in the office on Tuesdays, 9:30 am to 1 pm, and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Request a pledge statement to be mailed to you.

Sermons: Remember that you can pick up copies of past sermons in the Meeting House Foyer – look for the sermon rack nearest the Welcome Table. Don't see the sermon you want there? Go to the sermon archives on www.pbuuc.org – (second link in the first column).

Web Calendar: Also check out the regularly updated calendar, right on the front page of our website at www.pbuuc.org. There you will find information on upcoming Sunday Services, Enrichment Hours, and what is on the PBUUC calendar for this week – along with links to future services and events. Just another way that your leadership is helping you stay informed and involved!

Building Managers: Need a building manager for your church event? Please contact the church office at least two weeks in advance of your particular event to see if a building manager is available.

Church Leadership Directory in Branches: Hang onto your copy of Branches – as the last page is always an updated leadership directory. This gives you quick and easy access to handy telephone numbers to those in leadership in our community. Below is a quick list of email addresses for committees/events and staff that have one. Don't see your committee below? Feel free to contact the church office to have your email address set up today!

Staff:

- Rev. Diane Teichert – minister@pbuuc.org
- Karen Lee Scrivo – Interim Director of Religious Exploration - idre@pbuuc.org
- Kweli Powell – Religious Exploration Assistant - reassistant@pbuuc.org
- David Chapman – Music Director - musicdirector@pbuuc.org
- Daniel Everitt – Church Administrator - churchadmin@pbuuc.org
- Rebecca Birnie – Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant - rbirnie@pbuuc.org

Committees/Events:

- Annual Report – annualreport@pbuuc.org
- Auction – auction@pbuuc.org
- Board of Trustees – boardchair@pbuuc.org
- Branches Newsletter – newsletter@pbuuc.org
- Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team – DARTT@pbuuc.org
- Denominational Affairs – denom@pbuuc.org
- Head Heart History Group – headhearthistory@pbuuc.org
- Green Sanctuary Team – greenteam@pbuuc.org
- Leasing Team – lease@pbuuc.org
- Treasurer – mstark@pbuuc.org
- Social Action Committee – sac@pbuuc.org
- Stewardship Committee – stewardship@pbuuc.org
- Webmaster – webmaster@pbuuc.org

PBUUC Leadership Directory

☞ Staff ☞

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert	301-937-3666
Music Director and pianist	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Interim Religious Exploration Director	Karen Lee Scrivo	301-937-3666
Religious Exploration Assistant	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper	Rebecca Birnie	301-937-3666
Director of Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
	Chuck Bury	301-799-2535
	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
	Chris Eby	301-789-7217
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	Melody Lawrence	301-379-3864
Assistant Secretary		TBD
Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl	301-805-1218

☞ 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 - May ☞

Jeri Holloway 301-982-0758

☞ 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	Celinda Marsh	520-609-2217
Arts Council	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
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
Ministry	Peter Dowling	301-589-3025
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
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
(Co-chairs)	Sherry Mitchell	301-796-2359
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	Marj Donn	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
Mystery Book Club	Kathy Kearns	301-277-3211
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
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 Empowerment	Vanessa Landau	301-742-2084
Women's Retreat	Tish Hall	301-681-1457

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3215 POWDER MILL ROAD

ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030

(301) 937-3666

WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORGEMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

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

Branches Deadlines:

- June Edition – Friday, May 20
- July Edition – Monday, June 20

Bulletin Announcement Deadlines**Every Wednesday at 12 noon**

120 words or less – include day, date, location time, and contact information of someone who can be reached with questions.