



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

December 2011

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

DECEMBER 4

FIND A STILLNESS

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Claire Boston, Worship Associate, Paint Branch Youth Singers, and Chalice Dancers

Just when the long, dark nights suggest we might have time to find some stillness, the “holiday season” tempts (or drags) us into being crazy-busy. Oh, to offset the preparations, procuring, and parties with some peace!

DECEMBER 11

THERE’S HOLIDAY MUSIC IN THE AIR!

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Don Mitchell, Worship Associate, Erica Shadowsong, DRE, Holiday Choir Service with David Chapman

The PBUUC choir will present its annual Holiday Choir Service featuring familiar chestnuts, as well as new, thought provoking repertoire. Come join the festivities as the choir puts us all in the holiday spirit! Today is Signing Sunday, for those who wish to sign the PBUUC Membership Book.

DECEMBER 18

ALL AGES WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE: EIGHT LIGHTS OF HANUKKAH

*Rev. Diane Teichert, with Ken Redd, Worship Associate, and featuring a Dramatization by Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration, with the Middle School Class, the Chalice Dancers, and the All Ages Holiday Choir
No RE classes, but nursery care is provided in Room 5*

One of the “festivals of light” at the Winter Solstice, Hanukkah is an ancient story with meanings through time to the present. We will take that journey together this morning in drama, dance and song. Please bring mittens or other warm items for the Mitten Tree (see page 11). The Holiday Meal will follow.

DECEMBER 24

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES NOTE NEW TIMES

*Our Christmas Eve collections will support Warm Nights, providing shelter for the homeless. Bring family and friends with you!
No nursery care for either service. Please bring holiday goodies to share after the service.*

4:30 pm

ALL AGES SERVICE: CHRISTMAS PRESENCE!

Rev. Diane Teichert with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate

Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration, PBUUC Youth Singers, and Chalice Dancers

The familiar Christmas Story will be told, and more, with carols and candlelight, and we will share in fun and good humor the meanings of Christmas in our own lives. Babies through elders, all are welcome!

8:00 pm

LOVE IS BORN AGAIN

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Celinda Marsh, Worship Associate, the Choir and Chalice Dancers

Come, hear carols familiar and carols new, stories old and stories true. Sense the peace settling in around us on this dark night, for when “our hearts are open, love is born again,” and let yourself be lifted by joy.

DECEMBER 25

ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Ken Redd, Worship Associate

No Religious Exploration Program/No Nursery Care

An intimate service of stories and lovely, less-often-sung carols.

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*Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make,
Something you do,
Something you are, And something you give away.*

Robert Fulghum
Author, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*

The Minister's mUUsings...

Have you signed the Membership Book yet?



I hope you don't think it unseemly of the minister to ask, but if your answer is no, please keep reading! If your answer is yes, feel free to skip to the last paragraph.

If you have been attending services at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church (PBUUC) for long enough that you have begun to feel it is your spiritual home, I hope you will consider signing the Membership Book.

I know from my own experience that people join in their own time and way. For example, my husband and I were so moved by the caring my family's Presbyterian church showed during my father's illness and after his death that when we returned home to our church after his memorial service, we asked to sign the Membership Book as a gesture of our commitment to the community which we felt to be our spiritual home... for a couple years already.

Some folks are just not joiners, but function like members in every way. Others are waiting for their mother or father to die before they profess a religion that is not the one in which they were raised. Or, perhaps you want to know more about this faith tradition and/or our congregation in particular and you've missed my classes for newcomers? Please make an appointment to talk with me because I love to have those conversations!

Why is it important to me that attenders take the step of signing the Membership Book? Well, it's the clearest way for us to know you are committed. And, numbers say something – not everything, but something – about the health of a congregation. PBUUC is meticulous about removing people from our active membership roll if they become inactive, so if our attenders do not sign the Membership Book, it looks like the congregation is shrinking, when it is not!

Deciding to join Paint Branch UU Church is a commitment – one that we hope will enhance your life. Our members are encouraged to worship regularly, serve the church with time and talents, connect with other congregants, support PBUUC with personally generous financial contributions and help do the work of love and justice in our world.

How do you join? Speak to a Board member or me after any Sunday service or on the announced monthly "Signing Sunday." We will remove the Membership Book from its weekday place of safe-keeping, witness your signature, and welcome you with the "right hand of fellowship," and hugs if you like.

As a new member, you will begin to receive the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) award-winning quarterly magazine, *UU World*. And you will be eligible to vote at PBUUC membership meetings, to someday serve as a committee chair, Board of Trustees member or officer, and to be a PBUUC delegate to the UUA's annual General Assembly.

A New Member Sunday, when we introduce and welcome new members, will be coming up in January, so this is a good time to join!

Whether or not you are already a member: churches grow via invitation and hospitality. Who do you know that might love what you love about PBUUC – invite them to meet you at PBUUC one Sunday morning and maybe to go out

or home with you for lunch afterwards. And please be especially warmly welcoming to people you see on Sunday who you do not already know. Sit near them. If they are new, ask them how they came to visit with us that day or what they are looking in a spiritual home. After the service, show them the Welcome Table, where they can sign up to receive our newsletter, and the displays of brochures and sermons; invite them to an upcoming event. Introduce them to someone else and stick around to help the conversation go well. Look for them the next week.

Hoping to see you on Sundays,



minister@pbuuc.org

If you or someone in your immediate family is hospitalized or if a PBUUC member or friend is dying or has died, or if you would find it helpful to talk about your faith, your church involvements, or the decisions, transitions, joys or sorrows in your life...please call Rev. Diane Teichert.

Religious Exploration

“There is nothing in England that exercises a more delightful spell over my imagination than the lingerings of the holiday customs and rural games of former times. They recall the pictures my fancy used to draw in the May morning of life, when as yet I only knew the world through books, and believed it to be all that poets had painted it; and they bring with them the flavour of those honest days of yore, in which, perhaps with equal fallacy, I am apt to think the world was more home-bred, social, and joyous than at present.”

Washington Irving

My sentiments, exactly, Mr. Irving!

Now, I won't try to debate the finer qualities of certain stories such as *Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2*, which ensured their lasting appeal with the antics of a rich little boy violently defeating two stupid criminals through hours of painful pranks and Rube Goldberg devices. I will tell you, though, that my idea of a perfect holiday this year would include laughing until crying while watching those movies with my mother, because then I'd be reliving the holiday as I knew it in my family!

You see, for most of my life, I have experienced many of the popular holidays vicariously. My parents weren't really big on holidays, except for Thanksgiving. (They were kind of purists, and many of the so-called Christian holidays were too “worldly” for them.) So supposedly we didn't celebrate Christmas, except we seemed to enjoy a lot of sappy and silly Christmas movies-and of course we got presents so we wouldn't feel left out! By the time I actually experimented with celebrating Christmas with my husband, mom-in-law and their relatives, however, I had to admit I was just humoring them. The real thing didn't seem to be as exciting without the cultural stories I was used to us telling ourselves through television, books, and music around the holidays.

As I prepare for this year's winter holiday service, which we've decided to dedicate to honoring Chanukah, I feel I've made an interesting discovery about holidays. Chanukah is a holiday that tells a story, a story that happened a long time ago to people who were the ancestors of the people who enjoy the holiday today. Many Jewish people complain that the holiday has been modified to compete with Christmas, and thus has a more commercial feel to it with a focus on children receiving gifts. The irony is that people feel the same way about Christmas. I think this is because the essence of holidays such as these is the stories that are the true heart of them. Now, I'm not referring simply to the traditional stories that we tell ourselves about the holiday origins... I'm talking about *any* stories.

For example, no matter what people may think of how I spent my holidays growing up, I look back on them fondly. Sure, *Home Alone* is a ridiculous and contrived movie that lacks a number of important values! Sure, the kid was obnoxious and the way he talked to his mother-and she to him-still makes my jaw drop in horror! But this story, along with many others of various equal or lesser quality, all told the same bigger cultural story that intrigued me: that there was something about this time of year, something special, that people felt, and wanted to have again. I believed them when they told this story, as an outsider looking in, and so I felt a part of it all somehow just by listening, wide-eyed and naïve.

As I reflect now in preparation for the holiday service on the stories that Jewish people tell themselves, whether about their ancestors under the Greek-Syrian oppression, or their grandparents as survivors of the Holocaust and immigrants to the United States, I feel that same feeling... even though the holiday is not technically mine, the stories make me feel a part of it, because I feel the longing to connect that is at the heart of them. And I sympathize with how important it is for Jewish people to continue to tell themselves the stories and tell them to their children as they sometimes struggle with a Jewish-American identity. This year, I look forward to seeing the stories that Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church relives. What are your stories? Whatever they are, they are valid, and I believe your children will be happy to know them.

Happy Holidays!

Erica Shadowsong

Director of Religious Exploration

A Note about the October 30th Service: The "Triumph of the Goddess Durga" skit performed was meant to be humorous and tie in cultural celebrations of light triumphing over darkness. Unfortunately, an improvised prop of a weapon caused it to come across a lot more violently than intended! We're aware this might have alarmed some in attendance and wish to apologize.

Sincerely, Erica Shadowsong

Board of Trustees Notes

Where are we going as a congregation? Do we want to grow? Do we need to have goals?

These are questions the Board of Trustees (BOT) has been asking itself this year, and we believe that we do need to have some congregational goals. More importantly, we believe we need to have a plan for HOW and WHEN we will achieve those goals.

This fall, the BOT reviewed two earlier PBUUC planning documents, the 2001 Master Plan and the 2005 Imagine Paint Branch document. Our community has made great progress in the Social Action areas set forth in those plans (kudos to the many Paint Branchers who have made that happen!!), but these older plans identify other goals that



are still important but elusive, such as growing our membership, improving our facilities, and strengthening our lay leadership.

To establish a model for how an action plan might look, and to jump-start the planning process, we used the November BOT meeting to brainstorm goals and near-term actions within each of the three "elusive" areas. We had fun!

But it was only a start, and it will only be successful if lots of Paint Branchers help to develop – and implement – a plan.

Stay tuned for ways that you can get involved, and help PBUUC become more of the community you already love!

Susannah Schiller and Bettie Young
Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees

PBBUC Legacy Fund Update

On behalf of the PBUUC Legacy Fund Committee, I am pleased to report that the fund has reached approximately \$106,000. The fund, currently invested with the UU Common Endowment Fund, is in excellent shape despite the recent volatility in the financial markets.

The committee will begin accepting applications for new grant recipients in January 2012. Grants of up to \$3,000 will be awarded in April. For more information or a grant application please contact Ken Redd, PBBUC Legacy Fund Committee Chair, at KReddo1@gmail.com.

Ken Redd, Chair

The Wheel of Life

A very warm welcome to the most recent signers of the PBUUC Membership Book: Sabrina Finlay and Fred Werth on November 13!

In November, memorial services were held in our Meeting House for Jack Gore, husband of PBUUC member Marie Gore, on November 20; and for Dr. Dwight Smith, who had been a surgeon at Washington Adventist and other area hospitals, on November 13.

Also, an intimate memorial service for Donald Munro's father was held on October 30 in Room 4. Diane officiated for each.

A memorial service for Ruth Pearl, mother of member Marilyn Pearl, is scheduled for December 10 at 2:00 p.m.

A memorial service for former member Alice Gadol, will take place in the new year at a date to be determined.

Our hearts go out to Nancy Etkin who was hospitalized on November 16 and to Donald Munro who has been going in and out of ER's due to pancreatitis.

We are looking forward to the joy of a birth, a new baby for Jessica and Patrick Sharp, a brother for big sister Samantha!



Social Action Committee News (SAC)

SOCIAL, RACIAL, AND EARTH JUSTICE KICK-OFF THROUGH A MULTICULTURAL LENS Report on October 29 Social Justice Kick-off

Despite the foul weather, nearly 40 Paint Branch members, friends, and guests attended the second annual justice Kick-off on October 29. Speakers at the state and national level were invited to address the audience on Social Justice issues that were initially identified at last year's Kick-off and later approved for support and action at the June annual PBUUC congregational meeting. Those issues are: marriage equality, outreach to High Point High School, immigration and the environment.

Keynote speaker Paula Cole Jones, Joseph Priestley District Director of Racial and Social Justice, led an exercise to help

attendees consider the "Levels of Readiness" of their various Paint Branch committees and affinity groups from a multicultural perspective. A poster-sized photograph of a mirrored globe was used as a metaphor to help us think about who we see reflected in our worlds, our congregation, and our groups. Ultimately, the purpose was to show a religious community where people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures saw their cultural identities reflected and affirmed in every aspect of congregational life – worship, fellowship, leadership, governance, religious education, and social justice.

Brief highlights from our speaker presentations follow below. Their intent is to inspire readers to join and work together on making progress on these important Social Justice activities at Paint Branch.

Kristin R. Schulz, Residential Green Power Outreach Coordinator for 'Clean Currents,' spoke on environmental issues, particularly renewable energy in Maryland. She spoke about wind power initiatives and how we can support legislation to move the effort forward. Her break-out session led to an overarching theme that centered on making progress towards more sustainable human energy-management practices such as the Maryland Wind-Energy Movement, rather than those initiatives that could have negative influences on the environment. ❁

In support of the UUA focus on immigration as a moral issue, **Kim Propeack, Esq., Political Action and Communications Director, Casa de Maryland,** spoke on two high-profile concerns affecting our immigrant neighbors: Secure Communities and the Maryland Dream Act. In the break-out session, Ms. Propeack advised that the most effective way to work for positive outcomes related to Social Justice on both of these issues is to engage with our local and state elected officials, either through written communications, attending public forums in which individuals could speak out, or both. ❁

David Turley, Coalition Director of Marylanders for Marriage Equality, spoke on the current status of marriage equality legislation in Maryland. He is formerly from New York State where his work as field director for the Human Rights Campaign led an unprecedented effort in helping to pass legislation legalizing same sex marriage there. He mentioned how much more of an impact faith and race have had on passing the marriage equality legislation in Maryland and stressed the importance of being persistent in our efforts by asking supporters to contact others who still need persuading and to focus on speaking from our faith basis in support of marriage equality. Break-out group priorities included having a phone bank at Paint Branch for the coalition as we did last year and continuing our lobby efforts in Annapolis since only a few more supporting delegates are needed in the House of Delegates for marriage equality to pass this session. ❁

Principal Sandy Jimenez of High Point High School talked to participants about how they could become more involved with students, families and faculty of nearby High Point High School. Many ideas were discussed, ranging from volunteering to be tutors, the possibility of sponsoring a student art show, and collaborating with the school to oppose the Dream Act referendum. The school also has many material needs such as copy paper, coats, sweat-shirts and musical instruments. In an effort to help the school with one of its more pressing needs, a box has been set up in the church foyer to place hoodless royal and navy blue sweatshirts for students to be in compliance with the school's dress code. Everyone is encouraged to drop a sweatshirt (new or used) in the box. ❁

In closing, thanks to everyone involved planning and executing this year's Kick-off. Special thanks to Marge Owens, who arranged for an environmentally conscious lunch to be served (with bread from Tish Hall).

We also appreciated the presence of our minister, Rev. Diane Teichert, who opened the Kick-off with brief, thoughtful remarks and concluded the day with a moving musical rendition of *Spirit of Life* sung by all present. After the event she offered some observations as we move forward. She spoke of substantial progress made even in the face of some disappointments. These include:

- The significance of the 2010 Social Action Kick-off was that it focused the social action work of the congregation by asking attendees to indicate what they personally would work on and then selecting the two projects with the highest commitment. These were High Point High School and Marriage Equality.
- Unfortunately, the high school went through a tough year and now has a new principal, so we in a position of starting over with our efforts of establishing mutually supportive relationships.
- The Marriage Equality bill didn't make it through the state legislature last year. We are working again this year with renewed commitment to its passage.

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- Going into this 2011 Kick-off, new initiatives were established to involve the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) and the Green Sanctuary Team in the planning and execution of the 2011 Kick-off event. To promote the congregational resolution to become intentionally multicultural, the Kick-off was given the theme "Social, Racial, & Earth Justice Kick-off Through a Multicultural Lens". This collaborative effort reveals the depth and vision of our lay leadership! Strong attendance, including that of many Board of Trustees members, reveals the breadth of commitment in the congregation.

Social Action Committee Meeting
Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 - Noon
Room 1, RE Building

The agenda will include updates on marriage equality, High Point High School, and immigration activities from our successful Oct 29th Kick-off event! Also a look ahead for timing for next year's Kick-off and a quick revisit of this year's Kick-off too. In January plans are to co-host, with Silver Spring UU, a visit by Rev. Mark Kiyimba from Uganda - a brave UU minister who has been publically supporting GLBT rights. And more too - with special collections on the agenda and other important activities. Please join us! Contact Nancy Boardman, SAC Chair, for more information at [301-982-450](tel:301-982-450) or SAC@pbuuc.org.



Mark your calendars!
Our Paint Branch
marriage equality phone bank starts
early this year!

The new *Marylanders for Marriage Equality* coalition has asked us to be a site again for this important phone bank - starting before the holidays to work towards getting voting commitments from state legislators before the Maryland General Assembly convenes in January. The coalition has also asked us to host a *Campaign Run Down* meeting on one of the following dates. Details will follow. But for now please plan to be here on the following evenings to help out! As last year, for phone banking the coalition will provide training, scripts, and contact lists. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, November 29. The following two dates will be either in the RE Building in rooms 2/3 or the Kelley Room:

Wednesday, Dec. 7, from 6:15 - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 6:15 - 9:00 pm

Further questions? Contact Nancy Boardman, SAC Chair.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation
Team (DARTT)

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team
(DARTT) Monthly Planning Meeting
Tuesday, December 6

All are invited to DARTT's monthly planning meeting on Tuesday, December 6, in Room 1, Religious Exploration Building. There will be a period of reflection followed by final planning for the January 1 Kwanzaa Service & Meal and discussion of the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Event which will focus on moving our congregation further along its journey toward becoming an Intentional multicultural community. Come and bring your ideas and energy.

Holidays, Celebrations, and Multiculturalism

I love the variety of celebrations that occur this time of year at Paint Branch! We may light Chanukah candles and Advent candles; we may celebrate the returning longer days of sunlight at the Winter Solstice; and we may contemplate the 7 principles of Kwanzaa. And around the corner is Martin Luther King's birthday.

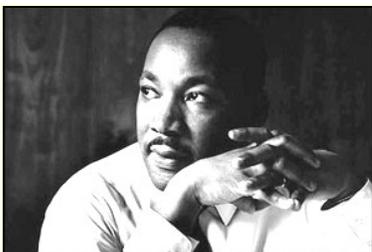


This year, **New Year's Day** falls on Sunday, the **7th day of Kwanzaa**, a holiday of seven days and seven principles, originally developed in 1966 by Maulana Karenga (who received some support from the UUA). Carmelita Carter-Sykes will lead the worship planning.

We will again have **A Sharing Kwanzaa Feast** afterward. This meal typically includes African and African-American and Southern dishes.

Remember eating the Curried Cameroon Beef stew that featured pineapple and coconut a few years back? I want to bring that back along with sweet potato pie this year. I will provide a variety of recipes for those hearty souls who will commit to coming to church on the first day of the New Year to worship and create a feast together.

Look for me and my recipes (and bring in some of your own!) at a table in the lobby after church!



Save The Date: Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Holiday Monday, January 16, at a Forum: How To Move Our Resolution On Intentional Multiculturalism Forward. Our facilitator will be Taquiena Boston, Director of Multicultural Growth & Witness of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The UUA Multicultural Growth & Witness Office seeks to make Unitarian Universalism a welcoming, inclusive, empowering, and just faith for Unitarian Universalists who identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender; economically oppressed; Latina/Latino and Hispanic; multiracial families; people of color; and people with disabilities.

Multicultural Growth & Witness' resources include leadership development and community building/organizing materials, educational curricula, workshops, worship and ceremonial guides, and information referrals for ministers, religious professionals, and lay leaders who are engaged in anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural transformation of congregations.

Taquiena will help us consider the meaning of our congregational resolution declaring ourselves an intentionally multicultural congregation. We want to help Taquiena plan for this workshop by providing her with our questions in advance. The forum will focus on tools that you need, on the Board, in staff work, in committees, affinity groups, etc., to take the next steps in this work. The forum will be organized around your responses to these questions:

- What needs to change (in your committee, affinity group, etc.,) in order to make a multicultural mix of folks feel great about being here?
- What questions do you have?
- What tools do you need?

Watch upcoming Sunday Bulletin notices, the January Branches and other communiqués for more information.

*Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team*

In and Around Paint Branch

Spirituality Circle Presents “Causing No Harm” Sunday, December 4, RE Building, Room 4

The video “Causing No Harm” will be shown during Enrichment Hour. It was originally presented on September 29 by a nationally prominent Buddhist meditation teacher.

Also in January, to honor **Martin Luther King**, there will be a **Thursday, January 12th Breakfast “Gathering of the People” Celebration** at Camelot by Martins (\$13) for which you may still be able to purchase a ticket by emailing DARTT@pbuuc.org or by contacting me.

Best wishes to all for many meaningful celebrations!

*Tricia Most, Co-Chair
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team*

Her talk explores the root causes of anger, war, and hatred in our personal lives and in our world and is presented with both the insights of contemporary psychology and 2,500 years of Buddhist thought. For more information contact Amy Steiner at [301-890-9072](tel:301-890-9072).

Dream Act Referendum
Free Film Screening, Monday, December 5
Silver Spring Civic Center, 6:30-8:30 pm

To learn more about the Maryland Dream Act, join Paint Branch members at a free screening of *"The Rights of Butterflies."* The film tells the story of an undocumented student in Montgomery County and her struggle to fund and continue her college education due to her legal status. RSVP on website: <http://rightsofbutterflies.com>, and indicate the number of free tickets you would like by clicking on the register button. Paint Branch will meet in the Civic Center lobby at 6:30 pm.



Sing in the Holiday Choir!

Come join the Intergenerational Holiday Choir! We will meet Sundays December 4 and December 11 in the Meeting House during Enrichment Hour (from 11:45 am - 12:45 pm) in preparation for singing at the Winter Solstice/Hanukkah service on December 18. For more information, contact David Chapman at [301-937-3666](tel:301-937-3666).

Paint Branch and Silver Spring UU Churches
Co-hosting UU Minister from Uganda on Tuesday, Jan. 17

Rev. Mark Kiyimba is the brave minister of a UU church in Kampala who has been publicly supportive of the rights of GLBT people in Uganda. This dangerous work has put his life in jeopardy as people suspected of being gay or lesbian or those who support human rights for gay and lesbian people, are increasingly attacked on the streets.

An evening with Reverend Kiyimba will be held at the UU Church of Silver Spring on Tuesday, January 17, in the evening. Those who are members of the UU United Nations Office have received the bi-monthly newsletters which have included news of the GLBT community's

efforts to avoid new national legislation that would impose capital punishment for gay or lesbian people in "egregious" cases.

All who would like to hear him speak, share light refreshments, and contribute to his support while he is meeting in the U.S., are invited to attend this meeting with our nearest UU neighbors, in their Silver Spring church. The exact time and other details will be announced in the January *Branches*. If you would like to help with arrangements contact Marge Owens at [301-345-1572](tel:301-345-1572) or email: lowellandmarge@verizon.net.

Thanks to our Super Fixer!

Paint Brancher Peter Dowling installed a door closure on the meeting house to make it open and close much better. And... it worked! We all owe him a vote of thanks.

Paul Young
 Building and Grounds Committee

Beacon House News

Beacon House, a UU founded and supported tutoring and mentoring program for low-income children and youth in Washington, DC, celebrated its 20th anniversary on October 28 at the Carnegie Institution for Science. UU Minister Reverend Donald Robinson, who founded Beacon House in 1991, was gratified with the number of UUs who attended, including several from Paint Branch.

(continued)

Beacon House recently received a \$10,000 grant from UU Social Responsibility Fund, which testifies to the support and participation of area UUs over the years. Beacon House relies on the generosity of area UUs who serve as volunteer tutors, mentors, chaperones and provide financial support. To learn more, call Gerry Kittner at [202-529-0785](tel:202-529-0785), and/or visit Beacon House's web site: www.beaconhousedc.org.

Handcraft Circle Caps & Mittens Sale

December 4, 11, and 18

The Handcraft Circle will be selling caps and mittens during the Social Hour after the service on December 4 and 11 and BEFORE the service on December 18. All proceeds from the Handcraft Circle sales go to the general church fund.



You may donate Handcraft Circle purchases to and/or bring warm clothing (new) for the "Mitten Tree" in the service on December 18. All items will be given to homeless people or to children in a local school who need warm clothing. For more information, contact Marj Donn at [301-474-1353](tel:301-474-1353).

Yule Ritual and Party

Friday, December 16, at 7:00 pm, Riverdale, MD



The Van Pelt family is hosting a Yule ritual and party, open to all PBUUCers (including kids) at their home in Riverdale, MD. Potluck dinner. Ritual starts at 7:00 pm; party after. Before the party there will be an ornament making class from 5-6:00 pm, where you can make a fused glass ornament for your Yule tree using scrap fusible glass.

This will be a fundraiser for PBUUC and the suggested donation is \$10 per ornament. All donated funds will go to the church. Contact Tina Van Pelt at cvanpeltah@aol.com for more information.

100 Sweatshirts, coats and guitars in December!



High Point High School Connection Events

Paint Branch has set a goal of collecting a total of 100 royal or navy blue (small logos ok) sweatshirts (no hoods), coats (any color or size) and guitars for students at High Point High School by **January 1, 2012**. Guitars for the guitar class must be playable. Search your closet or buy a sweatshirt, sweater, coat or guitar next time you are in a thrift store and hang them on the High Point High School coat rack in the Meeting House foyer.

ANOTHER ETHNIC DINNER SUCCESS!

After the Japanese Ethnic Dinner in May, we thought Philadelphia on October 22, would be comparatively easy. Ummm, not so much! We found no cookbooks crammed with recipes specifically Philly, so no foreword, preface or recipe notes packed with relevant information. All of that had to be tracked down, so thank you first to everyone who helped in the research, starting with Muriel Morisey who

has lived and continues to work there. Others who attended the menu meeting include Cathy Helmold, Jennifer Wright, and Marcie Washburn, with Chuck Bury, Adeline Wilcox and Rene McDonald contributing on line.

Mike Stark was out of town the date of the dinner, so Don Henderson volunteered to lead set-up and Jennifer Grant

and Bryan Côté agreed to stock and tend the bar. Thanks to all three for a great job on some very essential tasks. Others who helped set up included Ethelyn Bishop, Penny O'Brien and Fenwick Yu. Ethelyn also volunteered to tend the door.

Cooks included Mary Dancy and Lee Dudek, Chuck Bury, Cathy Helmold, Jennifer Wright, Marilyn Pearl, Penny O'Brien, Melody Lawrence, Jane Hudson (her first Ethnic Dinner), Don Gerson, Wendy Schlegel, Tricia Most, Marcie Washburn, Muriel Morisey, Alice Tyler, Tina and Genie Van Pelt, Carole Valliere, and Teresa Meeks.

For help in cleaning up, special mention goes to Becky Nation who helped in the kitchen before the dinner, then began clearing the tables and getting clean-up started during dinner, and continuing for quite a while after dinner, and that's all in addition to donating some sodas for the bar. Also helping to clean up were Building Manager, Chuck Bury, Nancy Boardman, Penny O'Brien,

Fenwick Yu, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Don Gerson, Jerry Governman (his first Ethnic Dinner), Cathy Helmold, Marilyn Pearl, Jennifer Grant, Bryan Côté, Carole & Rob Valliere, and Ann & Eric Cardiff. Thanks too to those who took home table cloths to launder.

This first dinner of the 20011-2012 season, with about 70 people attending, got us off to a great start for the year, earning **\$985.83**. Thank you so much to all who helped out, attended the dinner, and patronized the leftovers sale the following day!

The most recent Ethnic Dinner committee discussion about themes, while focused on what turned out to be Philadelphia, also included suggestions for one or several of the countries of the British Isles for February 18, and either Haiti or Phoenix for May 19. However, only the dates are certain. We invite your comments on those suggestions and/or other suggestions. Contact Marilyn Pearl at [301-805-1218](tel:301-805-1218) or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

Marilyn Pearl

Classified Ad - Studio Apartment for Rent

Lovely studio apartment attached to our house in Old Town Takoma Park is available for rent. It has a main living area with hardwood flooring, separate kitchen and huge closet. Other features: washer/dryer combination, dishwasher, garbage disposal, air-conditioning, built-in bookcase. Dedicated off-street parking space. All utilities plus FIOS internet & cable are included in the rent. If you are interested in renting this apartment, please contact Muriel Morisey, mcmorisey@gmail.com



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Davies Memorial UU Church in Camp Springs MD is hosting a series of FREE workshops leading to an Earth Day Celebration. Poetry Workshops will be held **January 28 and February 11, 12 - 3 PM**. Using your original poetry as inspiration, Art Workshops will be held March 10 and 17, 4 - 8 PM. Music Workshops to go with your poetry and artwork will be held March 20 and 27, 7:30 PM. For more information please visit our website at www.dmuuc.org.

You are invited to the **First Unitarian Church of Baltimore** to share our Winter Solstice Ritual on **Thursday, December 22 at 7 p.m.** This is our eighth year celebrating the return of the sun with a multigenerational ritual that is both formal and fun. Includes lighting new year fire, turning the wheel

of the year, singing solstice songs, reading poetry, and sharing ceremonial food. This year the children's story is *Minyong People's Story of the Sun and Moon*. We will have our annual Blessing of the Babes. If you have a baby born since the last Winter Solstice, please bring her/him for a special blessing and gift (and let us know so we can make sure to have enough gifts). There is a cookies-and-beverage reception afterwards. On-street parking (with meters in effect till 8 p.m. or 6 p.m., depending on location. Multi-story parking lot located directly across from the church on Franklin Street. Our church's address:

12 W. Franklin St. Baltimore, MD 21201

<http://www.firstunitarian.net/> We are accessible to wheel chairs. Contact info: pat_montley@msn.com.



PBUUC HOLIDAY CALENDAR—2011

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

Saturday, December 3, 4-8:30 pm:

All Ages Holiday Party with Annual Holiday Craft Fair. Pizza/salad for a donation of \$5, carols, make your own crafts, and decorate the tall Meeting House tree! Hosted by the RE Committee.

Sunday: December 4, 10 am:

Service – FIND A STILLNESS

After Service during Coffee Hour: Mittens and Caps Sale sponsored by the Handcraft Circle

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

- Intergenerational Holiday Choir meets to prepare for Winter Solstice/Hanukkah service on Dec. 18.

Sunday, December 11, 10 am:

Service – THERE'S HOLIDAY MUSIC IN THE AIR!

After Service during Coffee Hour: Mittens and Caps Sale sponsored by the Handcraft Circle

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

- Intergenerational Holiday Choir meets to prepare for Winter Solstice/Hanukkah service on Dec. 18.

Friday, December 16, 7:00 pm:

Yule ritual and party hosted by the Van Pelt family. Open to all PBUUCers (including kids). Potluck. (See page 11) Contact Tina Van Pelt at cvanpeltah@aol.com for more information.

Sunday, December 18, 10 am:

Prior to Service: Mittens and Caps Sale sponsored by the Handcraft Circle. Mittens will then be hung on the tree during the service.

Service – ALL AGES WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE: EIGHT LIGHTS OF HANUKKAH

Noon: Holiday Meal

Wednesday, December 21, 1 pm:

Third Wednesday Hyattsville UU Lunch Klub (TWedHUULK) Holiday Lunch at Siri's Chef's Secret (see p. 11). RSVP to Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net

Saturday, December 24:

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES NOTE NEW TIMES

Our Christmas Eve collections will support Warm Nights, providing shelter for the homeless. Bring your family and friends with you! No nursery care for either service. Please bring holiday goodies to share after the service.

4:30 pm Service – ALL AGES SERVICE: CHRISTMAS PRESENCE!

8:00 pm Service – LOVE IS BORN AGAIN

Sunday, December 25, 10 am:

Service – ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, January 1, 10 am:

Service Celebrating Kwanzaa

PBUUC Leadership Directory

☐☞ Staff ☞☐

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert	301-937-3666
Music Dir. & Pianist	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Dir. Religious Exploration	Erica Shadowsong	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst.	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Barbara J. Morton	301-937-3666
Admin. Asst./Bookkeeper	Rebecca Birnie	301-937-3666
Dir. of Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
Chuck Bury		301-779-2535
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	301-890-2967
Vice chair	Don Gerson	240-293-6570
Vice chair	Michael Léger	301-589-6808
Trustee	Don Henderson	301-977-1186
Trustee	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
Trustee	Charles Towe	202-547-7053
Trustee	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Trustee	Evangeline Wells	301-422-3614
Secretary	Melody Lawrence	301-379-3864
Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473
Asst. Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl	301-805-1218

☞ Pastoral Care Associates ☞

Lynn Johnson	301-890-1852
Teresa Meeks	301-774-8151
Mike McMenamin	301-490-7506

☞ We Care Coordinators ☞

Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Jeri Holloway - December	301-982-0758
Allison Hughes	301-864-1889
Iris Peabody	301-593-4095
Gloria ("Genie") Van Pelt	301-927-0331

☞ Worship Associates ☞

Claire Boston (2011-12)	301-585-4183
Celinda Marsh (2011-14)	301-585-2106
Don Mitchell (2009-12)	301-776-2359
Marilyn Pearl (2011-12)	301-805-1218
Ken Redd (2011-14)	301-486-4631
John Sebastian (2010-13)	301-589-6808
Carol Carter Walker (2010-13)	202-636-8138

☞ Committees ☞

Adult Religious Education	Michael Léger *	301-937-3666
Arts Council	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Buildings & Grounds	Paul Young	301-440-0612
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Denominational Affairs	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666
Finance	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Green Sanctuary	Penny O'Brien	301-586-9005
	Karine Bouis-Towe	202-547-7053
Legacy Fund	Ken Redd	301-486-4631
Leasing Team	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Membership	TBD	
Ministry	Peter Dowling	301-589-3025
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Religious Exploration	Alice Tyler	301-935-5279
(Co-chairs)	Matt Elliott	301-441-4508
Social Action	Nancy Boardman	301-982-3450
Spirit of Life Center	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Stewardship	Sherry Mitchell	301-776-2359
Visual Arts	Jane Trout	301-572-2898

*Temporary

☞ Groups and Activities ☞

Auction	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
	Theresa Shute	301-442-6312
Bridge	Penny O'Brien	301-586-9005
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
Handcraft Circle	Marj Donn	301-474-1353
Head & Heart History	Kweli Powell	301-275-6360
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	Tabitha Pierzchala	301-592-0294
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	John Bartoli	301-275-6226
Webmaster	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
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:****January Edition – Tuesday, December 13****Bulletin Announcement Deadlines****Every Wednesday at 12 noon**

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

All deadlines are now on the web calendar. Go to www.pbuuc.org

And click on “calendar” for the latest deadlines, events, activities and more!