



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person since 1954

February 2012

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

Nursery Care in Room 5 from 9:45-12:45
Religious Exploration for Children and Youth after the Sing Away Song
Refreshments and Fellowship after the service
Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45 - Childcare and Activities in the RE Building until 12:45

February 5

Drawing Hope

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Clair Boston, Worship Associate and guests Bill Rice and Steve Marshall
Naoko Maeda, guest pianist*

The story of the Hiroshima Children's Drawings is one of a long, terrible war ending and, in its aftermath, people building a new world through a gesture of reconciliation. Twelve drawings will be on display and our guests, docents from All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC, will speak about their legacy. Naoko Maeda has composed music for this occasion. An opportunity for discussion will follow.

February 12

Helping Love

*Rev. Diane Teichert with John Sebastian, Worship Associate,
Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration,
and the combined choirs of PBUUC and Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda*

Today we celebrate Valentine's Day by exploring our support of marriage equality as UUs and how can we helpfully converse with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who oppose it as Christians. A Special Collection will be taken for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation (page 8). Newcomers are invited to meet for informal Q&A about PBUUC and UUism with the minister from 11:30-12:30 in her office.

February 19

Let Us Pray

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Ken Redd, Worship Associate
Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration*

Now that "to tebow" has become a verb, named after the praying football player, talk of the means, whys and efficacies of prayer swirl in the media and we ponder our own answers. Today is Signing Sunday – for those who are ready to sign the PBUUC Membership Book, meet the Minister and Board member at the chalice after the postlude.

February 26

Serving with Grace

Rev. Alida deCoster with Don Mitchell, Worship Associate, and the Choir

How can we draw on the "spirit of life" of which many Unitarian Universalists sing every Sunday morning as we decide where and how to use our time and talents in our busy lives, our busy church?

**TELL A FRIEND, CO-WORKER, OR NEIGHBOR ABOUT
ONE GOOD THING THAT HAPPENED FOR YOU AT PBUUC
AND INVITE THEM TO COME WITH YOU ON A SUNDAY!**



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The Minister's mUUsings...

These are messages more than they are musings:



Our Christmas Eve services, held this year at new times (4:30 and 8:00 pm instead of 6:30 and 9:30 pm), were well attended and so I think we will hold them at those times for 2012 also. The early All Ages service was clearly way too long and we promise to do better next year, while the PBUUC Youth Singers stole the show. The later service seemed about right, with wonderful contributions from singers and dancers. By the way, Christmas Day was a Sunday so we held a service at the usual time; about 30 people attended, including 7 or 8 visitors – definitely worth doing.

Our caring community is in need of additional leadership. If it might be your passion to be a Pastoral Care Associate (PCA) or We Care Coordinator (WCC), please speak with me or someone currently serving in those roles (see the list on the inside cover of *Branches*). The PCA's provide a listening ear by phone or in person when someone is in the hospital, struggling with a major life transition, or otherwise in need of support; training is provided. The WCC's provide a more organizational kind of support, tapping PBUUC volunteers who have said they would provide meals, rides, cards, calls or visits when a congregant is in need. I meet with each group every six weeks, the PCA's on a weekday in the evening and the WCC's in the daytime.

When a couple in our congregation is struggling it is our goal and role to be a support community for both individuals so that they each may, if they wish, continue to attend services and be involved as volunteers and/or leaders. In my experience, there is always more to be understood than is apparent to outsiders and sometimes even to the couple themselves. So, it's helpful for the community to offer friendship, time and care to the individuals involved and to refrain from taking sides, being go-betweens or making assumptions about what is going on. In writing a Joy or Sorrow card to be read aloud in the service, on Facebook or in emails, please honor the inherent worth and dignity of each person and understand that detailed public updates may not serve the best interests of either the couple or the congregation.

Fortune's Bones is a series of events conceived by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, member of the singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock and also of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC, taking place at the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Maryland-College Park. I have been participating in the advisory committee for the project and was asked to help recruit African American elders to be bell-ringers for its exciting centerpiece event, so I sent out an email message to the PBUUC list-serve recruiting volunteers. Someone responded, "If this is really going to be a 'monumental cultural and ethical event,' it would be nice if people of all races were invited to participate [as bell-ringers]." I agree it would be a thrilling opportunity for anyone interested regardless of race, but this performance will portray an historic event from the American slavery period. So, I support the plan: I think that it will be most artistically effective for the audience if the bell-ringers are African Americans; I imagine that it may also be most personally meaningful for them to experience it as an all-black group; and I understand that the Elders have a special role in the cultural tradition.

I also think it's important for the vision and direction of the African American artists and academics leading the series to be supported, especially because those of us who are white are often accustomed to taking the lead in our society. I will be involved in the free closing celebration on Sunday afternoon April 15. I hope many PBUUC people will attend. For information, about the entire project pick up a brochure in our foyer or visit <http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/2010/c/engage09/fortunes-bones/events>.

Thank you to those of you who have invited friends, co-workers or neighbors to visit PBUUC. The experts say that congregations grow by invitation!

Looking forward to seeing you on Sundays,

Diane

Diane

minister@pbuuc.org

Note to Newcomers

Meet with the Minister

An informal opportunity for Q&A

Minister's Office, Religious Exploration Building

Contact Rev. Teichert at 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.



The Wheel of Life

A very warm welcome to the most recent signers of the PBUUC Membership Book: Genevieve Tokarski and John Barr on January 15.

Long-time PBUUC member Ken Jenkins is recovering from hypothermia, still at Laurel Regional Hospital as of this writing on January 26, and would welcome cards, calls and visits. Room 407A, Laurel Regional Hospital, 7300 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707. 301-725-4300.

Our hearts go out to the family of PBUUC member Fred Teal whose father died on January 11.

Religious Exploration

Through the Cave, to the Other Side!



There's a story I like to tell around February, called "The Boy Who Went to Live with the Bears." This story is of Native American tradition, and tells of a boy who spends his winter, after being abandoned by his uncle, with the bears, who teach him to fish, climb, play, keep warm, and listen for the hunter. I won't ruin the ending for you, but the reason I always think about this story around this time of year is because it's kind of a hibernation story; it calls to mind, for me, introspection, meditation, and going

deeper into the essence of things. There is a cave in the story, and it is through his journey in the cave that the boy meets the bears. He is gradually transformed into one of them, and the story brings bears and humans closer, positioning them and all forms of life alongside each other, showing the ways that they are more of the same family than different.

I think that is an appropriate analogy for some of the interesting activities that have been taking place in the PBUUC community. As I reflect on January and go into the next month, getting closer to that groggily awakening urge known as "spring cleaning," I'm intrigued by the many opportunities that have sort of organically arisen that allow for deep reflection, asking of questions, self-assessing, and going deeper into the essence of community life. My January Greater Washington Area Religious Educators Conference (GWAREC) meeting in Rockville was a

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buffet of experiences that different DREs shared about multigenerational community life in their congregations. I came away with many ideas and appreciation for the ways that multigenerational life is encouraged and continuously striven for at Paint Branch UU. The Kids' Enrichment Hour was launched with, so far, great success, and feedback on moving in this direction has been overwhelmingly positive. The opportunity to just *be* with the kids, get to know them and serve by being an adult who is specifically there to pay attention to them is a personally rewarding experience.

As I write this, not just one, but two special opportunities have taken place within the span of one week, in which the congregation and staff have taken a good, hard, and *deliberate* look at how to live multiculturalism intentionally in every fabric of PBUUC life. A forum called, "Moving Forward: A Leadership Forum on Intentional Multiculturalism" was held on MLK Day at the church, from which members representing RE as well as other areas of congregational life came back buzzing with thoughtful ideas to enrich those of us who could not make it. I will also be attending a dialogue on a similar topic, specifically directed toward area religious educators, called, "Journey Toward Wholeness: Dialogue on Lifespan Faith Development in a Multicultural World."

There is hardly room to talk more about all the activities coming up about which I am excited and hopeful for how they will enrich the RE program as well as the whole congregation, so it will have to wait until my next letter. In the meantime, as you and I come back out into the sunlight, may the lessons we've learned enrich the soil of our community, for next month, we'll be planting seeds!

Sincerely,

Erica Shadowson

Director of Religious Exploration

Board of Trustees Column

Every year at this time, we are required to make an official count of our membership and report it to the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) and the JPD (Joseph Priestley District). Among other things, our annual dues to these denominational associations are based on this certified number of members. There is a process for making this count; and as of the day I write this, the process is underway but has not been completed for



2012. So I cannot tell you whether we gained or lost members this year. However, the process of compiling an official count makes me stop and think about the importance of membership, and the ways each of us can affect it.

Hopefully we will grow our membership. Since there is always some natural attrition, we know we need to regularly bring in some new members. There are many things each of us can do to encourage new members:

- Invite a friend, neighbour or co-worker to visit PBUUC
- When a visitor stands up during the Sunday service, welcome them afterwards
- When that visitor comes back the next week, recognize and welcome them again
- Serve as a "Greeter" at the visitors' table some Sunday
- Perform a simple job like making coffee or ushering



What ideas occur to you? Please share your thoughts!

New energy around these welcoming activities is happening on the Board of Trustees, and was strongly felt at the recent Leadership Forum.

Please speak to Michael Léger, or any of us on the Board of Trustees, or to our minister, if you are interested in joining this initiative. It would be a wonderful way to contribute to the future of Paint Branch!

Bettie Young, Co-chair
Board of Trustees



Congregational Town Hall Meeting
 Sponsored by the Board of Trustees
 Sunday, March 4, 2012
 During Enrichment Hour

Stewardship Campaign 2012

Caring for our Community

March 4 - April 22, 2012

Yes, it is that time of year again. Time to start thinking about what Paint Branch means to us and how we are willing to support it. We all support Paint Branch in many ways – with time, talent and treasure. The Budget Leadership team held meetings in January to come up with a budget for the next fiscal year.

March is the time of year when we are asked to renew our financial commitment to Paint Branch in the form of a yearly pledge.

For new members and friends, you may be asked to make a financial commitment for the first time. We will be using Visiting Stewards again this year.

Please set aside some time to talk with your Visiting Steward when they call. You will be hearing testimonials from fellow congregants during the month of February about what Paint Branch means to them.

As always, all situations are different. All pledges are important, whether large or small. We look forward to talking with you.



Sherry Mitchell, Stewardship Lead
stewardship@pbuuc.org • 301-776-2359

Financial Notes – Midway: It’s Not Just an Island



Midway in this case refers to midpoints; the midpoint of the fiscal year, and the sheer dumb luck midpoint term (3 year) as your Treasurer. Both these midway points deserve some reflection.

As of December 31 our finances are on the surface in good shape, but with a little poking there are real concerns. The table below summarizes our income and expenses relative to the 2011-12 budget:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$180,602.36	\$197,704.00
Expense	\$164,141.75	\$179,149.47
Net Income	\$16,460.61	\$18,554.53

The net income shows that we are not far behind budget, and there are all sorts of reasons to believe our budget would end either balanced or with a small deficit. Further, we are not scraping the bottom of our bank account, in fact we paid some of our JPD dues ahead of schedule to help our district manage cash flow.

The bad news is that the income in this budget is bolstered by \$12,000 or so of one-time pledges, and it is still way behind budget; not a surprise in these hard times. Also, the expense side pays just token dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association, for which we will need to find \$12,000 more to pay. To have a sound budget that pays full fair share to both our district (which we do) and the UUA (which we don’t) requires approximately \$24,000 more. My hope is a new renter and contributions from the new Spirit of Life Center will find this money and more, so that we can fund our visions. Until then, we are good through the end of the fiscal year, and then we will have a very tight belt.

At the midpoint of my tenure, I pause to reflect on what works and what hasn’t. The first thing to note is that everything tends to move more slowly than expected. I had grand visions of documenting the Treasurer’s job before turning it over to a successor, and got a good start on it, then bogged down in last year’s scramble to find enough resources for our program and never really got back to it. I still have time, but will be recommitting to it.

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My biggest point of pride is that I was successful in recruiting enough members to have a vibrant finance committee. Kate Brett, Dave Nation and Liz Citrin have been carrying the ball for years, along with former member and now Board liaison Don Henderson.

They are now joined by Carmelita Carter-Sykes, a former treasurer of Sojourner Truth congregation, Robert Valliere, and Shantida, who deferred joining until his term as Worship Associate ended. All are new, but all are making good contributions, and as Treasurer I'm excited to have this level of support. You will be hearing more about their activities throughout the rest of this fiscal year, which ends July 1.

Mike Stark, Treasurer

Auction 2011: Something For Everyone Raises Over \$23,000!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another highly successful auction in November. We raised over \$23,000, including income from Dinner, Desserts and the Beverage Bar.

The Auction 2011 Team is having a "Lessons Learned" meeting on Sunday, February 19 during Enrichment Hour. All are invited to give constructive feedback about how we can have even greater success.

We will also draw a name from the pool of Auction 2011 volunteers and give that person \$25 in Auction 2012 Bucks!

It seems most people have heard of the one dish they *don't* want, but we will very likely have a *Haggis* because if we're doing Scotland, we *must*. There are only a few other Scottish dishes that most Americans are aware of, plus several more they may know without realizing they originated in Scotland. However, we have our sources and have done our research, so we've found quite a few. Some, you've had before, some will be new to you, some will be pleasant surprises. Most will be hearty and warming on a potentially cold winter night.

The menu will be available, along with tickets (\$15 per adult, \$7.50 for children) following church services for 3 Sundays beginning January 29. There is a possibility however, that the menu may contain such tantalizing morsels as *Cock-a-Leekie*, *Stovies*, *Clapshot*, *Tweed Cuttle*, *Cullen Skink*, maybe some *Bannocks*! Then, if you eat all your *Tatties*, perhaps some *Cranachan* and *Parlies* for dessert! And oh yes, the Scots do like their grains in liquid form, so there should be interesting bar offerings as well. If you have an Ethnic Dinner coupon and wish to use it for this dinner, please turn it in during ticket sales in exchange for a ticket. That way you will be included in our count of how many to cook for.

We need the help of about 25 to 30 people to set-up the tables, assist with the bar, tend the door, do the cooking, loan us recorded music (or actually play the bagpipes!), or stay afterwards to help clean up. It's all our wonderful volunteers who make these dinners successful. You can sign up for a task or two when you get your ticket.

Please! If you have any dietary restrictions, let us know when you obtain your ticket. If we know about allergies, intolerances, or vegetarian preferences, we will adapt recipes wherever possible. Reservations may also be made by phone or email until 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 14. Contact **Marilyn Pearl** at 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

So, mark your calendars, decide how you can help, watch the Sunday Bulletins, check the menu, invite some friends, and buy your tickets. Take the high road or the low road; we'll see you in the gloamin'.



ETHNIC DINNERS GO TO SCOTLAND

Saturday, February 18 - 6:30 pm



Get out your plaid and argyles! **The next Ethnic Dinner, Saturday, February 18 at 6:30 pm will take us to Scotland.** Quick! Name 3 Scottish dishes (not including alcoholic beverages)! If you can, you either were, or should have been, at the Menu Planning Meeting.



Social Action Committee (SAC) News



OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

With the Maryland General Assembly now back in session, the time is here for our “Standing on the Side of Love” commitment to marriage equality in Maryland legislation to move into high gear. The following are ways you can help to make that happen!

Join our weekly Tuesday evening phone banks from 6-9 in room 2 & 3 of the RE Building. We call supporters in targeted districts where legislators are uncommitted. These supporters are asked to then call their legislators and urge them to vote for equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples. Training, scripts, record sheets, cell phones if needed, and even pizza are provided by staff from the *Marylanders for Marriage Equality Coalition*. It’s an evening well spent for a social justice cause UU’s strongly believe in! The training is excellent and you’ll find yourself comfortable in making those important calls with such solid guidance. (And frankly, we could use many more Paint Branchers helping out with the phone banks. To date our number of participants has been quite low.)

On Thursday, February 9, come to the Prince Georgians for Marriage Equality Meeting – from 6-8 at the Busboys and Poets in Hyattsville on Route 1. Sponsored by Delegate Justin Ross, the MD General Assembly LGBT Caucus Members, Marylanders for Marriage Equality, and the Human Rights Coalition. The meeting is dedicated to making marriage equality a reality. Updates will follow.

Monday, February 13, is the Annual Lobby Day in Annapolis for GLBT issues. Please hold the date! All participants will gather in **Lawyers Mall at 6 pm**. Last year over 20 Paint Branchers attended this important event – with a rally of hundreds in Lawyers Square at the Capitol! We then visited legislators’ offices urging their support for marriage equality and transgender rights.

Helping with Data Entry for the Marylanders for Marriage Equality Coalition. Regional field organizer, Karess Taylor-Hughes, would greatly appreciate help with this. And it’s an important way you can join in if phone banks or lobbying are not your “thing”. It’s done on Wednesdays from 2-5 and Saturdays from 3-6. Karess said the location is flexible

– it could be at PBUUC or at someone’s home. And she could bring rental computers if needed. (You’ll probably remember Karess from our marriage equality letter writing table at Paint Branch on January 15 which over 25 of you participated in!) You can contact Karess in the following ways: Phone: 202-216-1573, cell: 202-716-1604, and her e-mail: karess.taylor-hughes@hrc.org.

Wrapping Up: Thank you for whatever you can do in helping our *Standing on the Side of Love* campaign for GLBT issues this year in the Maryland General Assembly! Also, thanks if you joined our special canvassing event on January 29 with Goodloe and Davies UU churches.

Nancy Boardman, Chair
Social Action Committee

Special Collections

The special collection for Warm Nights, taken on December 24, yielded **\$1,623.58**. Your generosity helped to underwrite the costs associated with hosting the sheltering and feeding of homeless guests the week of Sunday, January 22, through Sunday, January 29. Special thanks to all involved in making this year’s Warm Nights such a success!

Donations in the amount of **\$476** were received for the January 8 special collection for the United Nations Unitarian Universalist UU-UNO.

On January 22 donations of **\$360** were collected from the UUSC’s Guest at Your Table program. Guest at Your Table boxes were handed out during the November 20 Sunday service to collect change for “guests” over the holidays. Proceeds are used to foster understanding and awareness of UUSC’s human-rights work.

The special collection for the February 12 Sunday Service, “Helping Love,” will be taken for the Human Rights Campaign Foundation which supports programs that promote equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Checks may be made payable to **HRC Foundation**.

**Monthly SAC Meeting, Saturday, February 18
10 am - Noon, Room 1, RE Building**

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

Learning While Honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Sunday, January 15, in her “A Beloved Vision” sermon, Rev. Diane Teichert spoke of “**the individual inner spiritual work** we each may need to do as we move closer to Dr. King’s vision of a Beloved Community...” Practicing multicultural values is indeed a spiritual discipline for me. Diane’s sermon recognizes that unlike the multicultural success stories of some mega-churches, we at Paint Branch include diverse gender identities in our broad view of multiculturalism. Because Dr. King was inspired and closely counseled by Bayard Rustin, a Black Gay Quaker, to adopt a stance of non-violence, I believe a longer life might have enabled him to address gender identity oppression. Reading Diane’s sermon is one of several inspirational experiences that have fed my personal spiritual journey recently.

Another occurred on Thursday, January 12, when I went with other Paint Branchers to the Camelot by Martins annual breakfast celebration known as ‘A Gathering of People’ to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year’s keynote was delivered by social justice activist and radio talk show host, Joe Madison, who organized a “Sudan Campaign” to raise money to free more than 7,000 slaves from the war zones of Southern Sudan. Mr. Madison talked about the years of testifying to congress in an effort to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday. He and others insisted that such a holiday would not merely be another ‘day off to go shopping,’ and inspired us to observe the holiday in ways that honor Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life of service and the pursuit of social justice. Joe Madison encouraged us to remember that **living our principles** is more important than displays of power, that our service is more important than our material success.

These messages inspired me to prepare a workshop proposal for our Joseph Priestley District Assembly (April 13 - 15 at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington) to focus on some things I learned about multiculturalism from a 2009 Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training. On January 16 during the “Moving Forward: A Leadership Forum on Intentional Multiculturalism,” Our minister, Diane, shared aspects of “**Transforming Institutional Values**” for “**Becoming an**

Anti-Racist Multicultural Institution” (from the Crossroads training) including “Accountable and Responsible Relationships with **Broadly Shared Power**” that include using “**Transparent Communication and Decision Making** that safeguards personal integrity, **Cooperation and Collaboration** that nurtures individual creativity, **Both/And Thinking** that moves to collective action,” and an “**Abundant Worldview that uses resources responsibly.**”

Taquienna Boston, Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness for the Unitarian Universalist Association, taught and encouraged us to use a process for groups of 5 to 12 people that Rev. Eric H. F. Law calls **Mutual Invitation**. Taquienna emphasized that **when we speak, we exercise power and when we listen, we empower others**. We gathered into action-oriented discussion groups from four major areas of church life: Worship, Social Justice, Community Life and Leadership Development. Each group developed specific, short-term, mid-term, and long-term assessable action steps that would engage the congregation in intentional multiculturalism. Practicing the **Mutual Invitation process**, each speaker invites the next person to speak. Anyone can pass and invite someone else to speak. Not going in order allows members to focus on listening to others and creates a shared responsibility to include everyone, and to include those who have taken a ‘pass’ before anyone speaks a second time. Another tool for intentional multiculturalism that we practiced was **Process Observation** using specific questions developed by the UUA’s Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee. Specifically, we were challenged to **observe if probing questions were asked about the impact of decisions on underrepresented and oppressed persons in our congregation**. As Diane said in her “A Beloved Vision,” sermon, “Let us imagine a faith that erases reticence, issues invitations and **asks important questions.**”

My personal journey toward wholeness will include challenging myself to share and model what I have learned, and specifically to use the processes of **Mutual Invitation** and **Process Observation** in DARTT, Social Action Committee Meetings, and in other group gatherings.

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

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) *continued*

Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem To Premier At Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center Saturday, February 25, and Sunday, February 26.

Paint Branch UU Church Has Tickets For Sunday, February 26, at 3:00 PM.

Fortune was an African-American slave who served a bone doctor, forerunner of today's osteopaths, in Waterbury, Connecticut. Upon Fortune's death in 1798, the doctor boiled the flesh from his bones and used Fortune as a medical specimen. His bones ended up on display in a Connecticut museum until 1970. Fortune's history and the history of medical experimentation has been the subject of a year long study by several Departments of the University of Maryland and several forums at the Clarice Smith Center and other Maryland venues.

A culminating experience will be the premiere of *Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem*, a poem set to music with words by poet Dr. Marilyn Nelson, the former poet laureate of Connecticut, and music composed by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, noted composer and member of Sweet Honey In The Rock. The cantata will include a full symphony, two choirs, seven soloists and an African bell chorus.

Paint Branchers friends and family will have an opportunity to be part of the audience on Sunday, February 26, at 3:00 pm. Tickets are available at \$32, a 20% discount. If you're interested in finding out more about Fortune's story, please pick up a brochure from the Meeting House Foyer. If you'd like to purchase a ticket, please contact dartt@pbuuc to assure a ticket. You should reserve your ticket as soon as you can and plan to pay by no later than Sunday, February 5.

submitted by Carol Carter-Walker, Co-Chair

Nature Spirituality Circle (NSC) News and Events

NSC is celebrating Candlemas/Imbolc by gathering at Tabitha's for candlemaking at 3 pm on Jan 29. Please contact Tabitha Pierzchala at tabidee@aol.com or 206-290-9831 for more information – or join the NSC list serve (details below).

Wicca 101 classes are back on the second and fourth Sunday schedule. Class will be held on Feb 12 and 26 during Enrichment Hour in the RE building lower level.

Feb 12 - Magickal Tools. This is a great opportunity for show and tell. Bring out your athames, your besoms and bolines, your crystals and cauldrons. What's on your altar?

Feb 26 – Circle Casting. We will discuss the symbolism used in creating sacred space in pagan traditions, followed by a practical exercise.

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. All interested seekers are welcome to attend all NSC events. For additional information on the Nature Spirituality Circle, please visit our website 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 listserve: 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.

In and Around Paint Branch

MEET THE GUEST PREACHER

On February 26, we will welcome the **Rev. Alida DeCoster** to our pulpit. She grew up as a Unitarian Universalist in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was a high school teacher and family life educator before preparing for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. She received a masters degree in counseling from DePaul University in Chicago in 1980 and Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 1986. She served Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda as Associate Minister from 1986 to 1998, specializing in pastoral care. From 2003 to 2010 she was Minister to the Social Justice Internship Program at the Unitarian Universalist Washington Office, where she helped staff tap their spiritual strength for social justice work. Her current ministry is as a spiritual director in private practice. Now a member of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC. Alida lives in Silver Spring with her husband, Perry Beider, and their ten year old son, Louis.

TWO NEW ADULT EDUCATION POSSIBILITIES will begin soon, meeting in the evening, probably once a week unless the group decides otherwise.

Common Security Club/Resilience Circle

(Intro. Meeting, plus 8 sessions): A Common Security Club is a place where people come together to look at our real security in the face of the economic crisis. It is part study group, part self-help and mutual aid group and part political action group. In these clubs, we learn about how we got into this mess and what we can do together to increase our economic security. Three Components of a Circle: LEARNING TOGETHER, MUTUAL AID, and SOCIAL ACTION.

World on the Edge Book Discussion Group

(Intro. Meeting, plus 7 sessions): Lester Brown's book on the state of the world would be hard reading, except that he tells what needs to be done (Plan B) and what progress is already being made in those directions. Join others who care about the future we're leaving to our grandchildren and learn how you can make a difference.

For both these groups, there will be a sign-up table during the social hour following the service on February 5 and 12. For more information, call Marj Donn at 301-474-1353.

The Monday Watercolorists have been meeting in College Park Heights for several years to paint and encourage each other's efforts. They have shown their work at PBUUC at least once before and are pleased to do so again. The artists involved are Donna Aldridge, Anne Harter, Barbara Loh, Marie Robinson and Jane Trout.

The work will be on display in the Meeting House through February 26 and some is for sale. Further information about the work and how to contact the artists can be found on the pillar at the left of the entrance to the Meeting House. If you were to decide to purchase work the artist would contribute 20% of the price to Paint Branch.

At the moment, we have exhibits planned through the summer but the Visual Arts Committee is always in search of artists interested in exhibiting at Paint Branch. If you know of someone who might be interested, please talk with Jane Trout at [301-572-2898](tel:301-572-2898).



Special thanks...

I want to thank Paint Branchers for making my husband Dave's Memorial Service such a beautiful occasion. Many friends from around the area were in attendance and many expressed to me what a wonderful service it was. I know all of this did not happen without a lot of planning and much effort on the part of many of you.

Jane Trout



Can you smile at 9:30 am on Sunday

mornings? If so, read on!

Paint Branch UU Church usually has two greeters: A Board of Trustees member on the Deck; and a member in the Meeting House Foyer at the Welcome Table. We are recruiting additional Welcome Table Greeters. Greeters are an important part of the first impression that newcomers form of our community. Here's a list of what Welcome Table greeters do:

- Arrive by 9:30 am
- Put on your name tag and a special Greeters tag
- Ensure that the Welcome Table has a supply of paper name tags; pens and a newcomer's roster page
- Tidy up the brochures on the two tables in the Foyer
- Look over the Order of Service and Bulletin announcements so that you can guide parents to the options for their children; e.g., nursery, child care, Sanctuary, Enrichment Hour, etc., and direct all to after-Service activities; e.g., Minister's Meeting, other Enrichment Hour activities, etc.
- As newcomers enter, greet them and invite them to sign the newcomer's roster
- Enter the Sanctuary as the Service begins, so that you can keep a watchful eye to see that newcomers are comfortably seated and being greeted during the Welcome
- If some newcomers did not come to the Welcome Table, keep an eye out for when they stand during the Service and try to greet them at the end of the Service—and get them to sign that roster!
- Return to the Welcome Table at the very end of the Service to thank newcomers for coming, ask them to return and have them sign the Newcomer's Roster, if they haven't done so. For those who stay, hook them up with someone who will talk to them during the Coffee Hour and walk them to an Enrichment Hour activity
- Plan to leave by no earlier than 11:45 am
- Telephone or e-mail newcomers who visited during your assigned week to check in with them; (The Office will provide their contact information to you about mid-week.) You can use the latest issue of Branches to let them know of upcoming Sunday Services and other church events.

Greeters usually commit to one specific Sunday a month. Backup greeters are also needed. A cadre of six to eight people who represent the diversity of our congregation in terms of age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation; race, ethnicity would be ideal.

You will be oriented by an experienced Welcome Table greeter.

TWedHUULK Will Meet at the New Tara Tai Restaurant

Another new place has opened in the Arts District of Hyattsville, across the street from Busboys and Poets. The Tara Tai is at 5501 Baltimore Ave. on Route 1. We have taste tested a little of their long menu and recommend it highly. It is very moderately priced. The art deco decorating is a plus, as is the friendly staff.

The Third Wednesday Hyattsville-area Lunch Klub plans to meet there on Wednesday, February 15, at 1:00 pm. Please let me know if you are able to join us. Contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572. Or just show up!

We've Got Mail!

In these waning days of the year, the JPD Board and Staff with you the love of family and friends, the warmth of you community of faith, and a strengthening of UU faith. Our partnership is strong in many ways due to the work of you and the thousands of other UUs in our 70 congregations who care deeply about our religious way of life. May the New Year bring you and your congregation health and happiness and may our connections be even stronger as we face the challenges of the year ahead. The historic 1834 Priestley Memorial Chapel Associates www.priestleychapel.org is available for tours. Joseph Priestley is buried in the cemetery just north of the chapel. We encourage your congregation to make a pilgrimage and connect with your UU history.

The Joseph Priestley Board and Staff



Paint Branch Arts Council

Music Series – Spring 2012

The Paint Branch Arts Council proudly presents the following events of the Music Series for the 2012 spring season. Sunday, February 19, 2012, at 5:00 pm will bring “Trio Simpatico” featuring works for piano, clarinet, and French horn. Clarinetist Phyllis Crossen-Richardson, French hornist Heidi Littman and pianist Matthew Bachman, will play works by Wilder, Reinecke and Sobek.

Sunday, March 4, 2012, at 4:00 pm will feature Victoria Bragin, pianist.

Sunday, March 25, 2012, at 4:00 pm our own Erica Shadowsong will be featured in a story telling event.

Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 4:00 pm will be a recital by Barbara Brown, cello and David Chapman, pianist.

All events are free; donations are happily accepted. A reception will follow each event. Please put these dates on your calendar and support the arts at Paint Branch.

submitted by Jeri Holloway



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Review of Presentation on the Dangers Facing GLBT People in Uganda

On January 17, a group of PBUUC people attended a talk and reception for the UU Minister from Kampala, Uganda. Uganda has had a recent history of very heavy despotism, even before Idi Amin took power by force. Rev. Kiyimba told the story of how he found Unitarian Universalism after exploring several other religious organizations. His academic training began with a degree in engineering followed by several years in a school of theology. He was looking for an organization that promoted inclusion of all people and love instead of hate toward “others,” including Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Transgender (GLBT) people. He has led a UU congregation of about 300 people in the capitol city for some years now. Because of his outspoken support for GLBT people, his life is threatened if he returns to Kampala at this time, but he hopes to be able to be back home very soon. He also administers a school near Kampala for several hundred children who have been orphaned by AIDS.

A crowd of over 200 people attended the event and engaged in a very lively Q&A session after Rev. Kiimba’s presentation. Bruce Knotts, Exec. Dir. of the UU United Nations Office participated. The UNO has been financing a part of Rev. Kiyimba’s work for some time. A representative of the Ugandan Embassy also spoke, urging the audience to see the efforts being made by the President and his government to encourage fair treatment of GLBT people.

This was a most informative and energizing evening. There was some discussion of the UU Partnership Program under which many UU churches have formed a relationship with a UU group in congregations around the globe. Several have adopted a class at the school near Kampala.

submitted by Marge Owens



Spirit of Life Center

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20783
Web: www.pbuuc.org Phone: (301) 937-3666

LIFT YOUR SPIRIT AND IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE! "CHANGE YOUR HABITS; CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

Take time this New Year to invest in your self. Come join us to exercise, learn, visualize, think and relax at the Spirit of Life Center! With a variety of classes and workshops, you can create your own self-improvement program best suited for you. A balanced life can bring you vitality, a restored sense of purpose, and improve your quality of life.

Meditation Workshop: by Lynn Johnson/David Howard/Raman Pathik. Understand yourself and gain inner clarity and use the power of your Imagination to create what you want in your life.

Dancing Within Class: by Sharon Werth. The Dancer in You! Discover the movement that is in your body. Start your day stretching and moving, and let the dance of your inner spirit out! No experience necessary. Please note day change below.

Simplicity Circle Workshop: by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute. Simple living is about making conscious choices about what you do with your time, your money, and your energy. Simple living is about mindfulness, not deprivation. Simple living is about focusing your energies on what you personally consider important, and improving your quality of life as a result. 7 sessions following the book (\$22.00 for book)

Laughter Yoga-mix Class: by Tina McCloud. A fun and gentle yoga mix of breathing, poses, stretches, meditation, and laughter therapy. All physical levels are welcome, as we are able to modify any limitations (mat, floor, wheel-chair) or skill levels. No experience necessary.

Zumba Class: by Shawna Webster. An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning class that's moving millions of people toward joy and health.

Quality of Life Workshop: by Raman K. Pathik. Explore the meaning of quality of life for you and develop a blueprint to implement better habits that will improve balance in your life. Experience how to connect with your true self, nature, your family, your community, your finances, your body, health and the world.

TIME	WORKSHOPS		CLASSES	
TBD	Simplicity circle (7 sessions) Saturday or Thursday (\$22. for book + \$5 donation)	2 hrs.	Dance Within Thursday @ 6:30 PM Donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes	1 hr.
9:30 AM	Meditation Workshops: Saturdays (Suggested donation \$5/each)	1.5 hrs.	Laughter Yoga Saturday @ 9:30 AM Donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes	1 hr.
			Zumba @ Saturday at 11:00 AM Donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes	1 hr
12:00 PM	Quality of Life (6 sessions) Saturdays (Suggested donation \$5/each)	1 hr.	Drop ins—Any classes & workshops \$10 per class, \$5 per day workshop, 4 classes for \$32. More than 2 classes and workshops, \$25.00 per week. <u>Six week commitment to improve your Quality of Life and change your habits: \$25 x 6 = \$150.</u> Quality of Life Workshop (6 sessions) Meditation Workshop (6 sessions) Laughter Yoga, Zumba or Dancing Within Classes (6 sessions) Simplicity Circle Workshops (6 sessions)	

For more information and registration, contact: solcc@pbuuc.org

PBUUC Leadership Directory

☞ Staff ☞

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert	301-937-3666
Music Dir. & Pianist	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Director, Rel. 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. 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 Ed.	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	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	TBD	

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:****March Edition – Monday, February 20****April Edition - Tuesday, March 20****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!