



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

March 2012

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

Families with young children are invited to sit in front for a better view until the Sing-away Song.

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



March 4th

**Some Church! A Celebration of our Beloved Community
An All Ages Service Launching our 2012 Stewardship Drive**

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Don Mitchell, Worship Associate, Youth speakers on "What PBUUC Means to Me"
The Chalice Dancers, PBUUC Youth Singers and Kids Choir*

A child's idealistic love and the spider's creative ingenuity saves the life of Wilbur -- the terrific, radiant and humble pig -- with roles for many and lessons for us all. The service will end with the Chalice Dancers leading a joyous, dancing celebration of our Beloved Community! Nursery care will be provided for the very youngest, while children and youth participate in the Meeting House. Please stay after the service for the Town Hall Meeting, a mid-year congregational conversation led by the Board of Trustees, with children's activities concurrent.

March 11th

Mother Jones, Local Heroine

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate,
Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration, and the Choir*

In honor of International Women's Day, we explore the story of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, fiery American labor and community organizer, who lived her last years in Adelphi near our church. Newcomers are invited to meet for informal Q&A about PBUUC and UUism with the minister from 11:30-12:30 in her office in the Religious Exploration Building, children's activities provided.

March 18th

World on the Edge

The Worship Associates Annual Auction Service with Special Music

This is the Worship Associates' annual Auction Service, this year won by Marj Donn, whose passion is mobilizing people to save our environment. The latest book by Lester Brown, *World on the Edge*, inspires the service.

March 25th

How to Greet the Day

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Marilyn Pearl, Worship Associate,
The Chalice Dancers and the Choir*

The rhythms and rituals of our lives have long been the province of the poets, prophets, and storytellers. Maybe humans have struggled since time immemorial to balance work and play, spirit and survival? A Special Collection will be taken today to benefit Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (see page 7). 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.

**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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Note to Our Readers:

In response to the results of the January *Branches* electronic survey, the Electronic Communications Task Force is currently reviewing format and content of the newsletter. Some preliminary changes appear in this month's edition of *Branches*. Other changes may appear in future editions of the newsletter.

Editorial Guidelines

- *The deadline for submission of articles and other content to **Branches** is on the 20th day of every month, except Christmas.*
 - * Articles should be submitted in their final form and content should be 250 words or less. Please submit the name of the author and any other contact information as necessary.
- *The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the **Sunday Order of Service** is every Wednesday at 12 noon.*
 - * Announcements should be submitted in their final form and content should be 150 words or less. Please include day, date, location time, and contact information.

**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!**

The Minister's mUUsings...

In my neighborhood, the Snowdrops appeared just after New Years. I know because I took a photo of them with my cell phone dated January 6th. The Daffodils have been flowering for over a month, the *Helleborus orientalis* or Lenten Rose (by its name, an early spring bloomer) for weeks, and the naturalized crocuses in the lawns and woods have been showing color for a week or more.

The blossoms are as pretty as ever, but this year they are not welcome harbingers of spring. This year these signs of spring are signs of trouble. They are daily reminders of the fact of global warming. I know that one season, in one year, does not make a trend, but I believe the scientific research that informs, and confirms, my worries. So I feel a quiet desperation. Even if we have a big snowstorm in March, my fears will not be assuaged.



I had a dream that I feel illustrates my wish for an easy solution to global warming. In the dream, I was coming out of the house and down the front steps with a pot of hot water in my hands. Several paces later, I tossed the water out and unintentionally onto a beautiful single pink flower blossom with a yellow stamen on a tall stem. At first I was chagrined, fearing the hot water would kill it, but quickly I was relieved to see the flower did not wither up but instead slowly folded up into its center and the plant retracted to its appropriate winter appearance. It was like a slow-motion film of its

blossoming, only in reverse. I awoke feeling relieved and amazed, momentarily; and then alarmed.



Global warming is tempting to ignore, as something that happened at my house shows. When a coffee table book from the Natural Resources Defense Council, "The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World," arrived at our house in early January, we put it on display in our living room. We've been so busy since the holidays, I don't think either my husband or I had even opened it before I was asked to move it out of sight. Early in February, I was hosting a meeting of friends and one of them said she couldn't bear to talk about our mundane lives all the while faced with the book's cover. It shows two polar bears stranded on bright white sea ice surrounded by green sea water. They are looking up, as if beseechingly, to the airplane from which the photograph must have been taken. I moved the book to the bookshelf.

I will move it back to the coffee table, now that I've looked through it, the least I can do. What more? The book concludes with advice: observe your routines to reduce your energy use, write or call (better means than petitions and emails) your politicians and vote with the earth in mind, be a spark plug for better public policy, use less gasoline, and increase your efficiency in water and energy use.

In Maryland, we can support the legislation for offshore wind (an alternative energy source) and fight fracking (a process of oil extraction which discharges a key greenhouse gas, methane, into the atmosphere). I was one of 35 clergy in Prince George's County to sign the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light organization's letter to State Senator Anthony Muse and four Prince George's delegates in support of offshore wind power legislation. But I have not done anything about fracking yet.

As a congregation, we have all we can do to follow our Social Action priorities for this year - equal marriage, immigration reform and developing our connection with High Point High School. But maybe as individuals we can do more about global warming.

Doing more than the least I can do is the only way I know to feel less fearful and more hopeful. Let us pray for the energy!

Hoping to see you on Sundays,

Diane

Rev. Diane Teichert

minister@pbuuc.org

Note to Newcomers

Meet with the Minister

Sunday, March 11 after the Service

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

Our Music Director, David Chapman, is awaiting news on tests performed while he was hospitalized from February 9-16. We are holding him in our hearts and hoping for good news and a rapid return to feeling great.

We rejoice to welcome to our world... Evan Alexander Graham-Wright who was born Friday, January 27, the son of PBUUC members Jen Wright and Melissa Graham, and a brother for Jamie!

Long-time PBUUC member Ken Jenkins is in rehab and would appreciate calls, cards and visits. Sanctuary at Holy Cross, 3415 Greencastle Road, Burtonsville, MD 20866. Phone: (301) 388-1400.

Donald Munro continues being in and out of the hospital with colitis and welcomes calls and company wherever he is!

Religious Exploration



“God save us from the end of March and the beginning of April”

What a hilarious proverb! No, really...it's a proverb! A rather overly dramatic one, at that! I found it when I was looking for the one about how March “comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb,” but it made me laugh so much I simply had to share. Well, at any rate, I don't know about you, but I certainly feel the speeding up of purposeful energy all around! As I write this, crocus clusters and daffodils are only now coming into bloom in clusters around the church property, but boy, do they mean business!



Or maybe they mean *busyness*.

You'll notice that the children do, too! What business? The business of growing, obviously, and that's exactly what our RE program is doing: *growing*. Growth is a pretty amazing thing. Its process is subtle, but its results are impossible to ignore. It is insistent and persistent. And it changes everything around it. Growth in nature, to me, is nothing but evidence of the power of life.

Over the last couple of months, we have welcomed at least two new babies into our PBUUC family! Over the next half of the year, we will be welcoming more. While these new arrivals are making themselves known, the ones from the last year are beginning to get up and running-and we do mean *running*-about. We tried adding a dollhouse here and taking away an accident-prone toy truck there, but we're still trying to keep up! And if that weren't enough growth for you, we've had the wonderful privilege of welcoming new, visiting and returning families, particularly in the elementary grades. What's been really fun, is seeing friendships develop among the children, old and new, as they buzz happily around inside and out of the RE building. *That's* when you really know you're on the right track, and I hope the growth in all these areas continues!

You may notice some changes in the RE building as the growth continues; we will be moving some classes around, for one, to make room for the different needs of some of our littlest, yet most tenacious family members. This is a welcome change for many families, and while it may require an adjustment period, I hope most of all it will give families and children a much needed sense of plenty of space. And a wonderful space it is.

Speaking of which, I've been delighted to spend some time with elementary-aged kids in the new Kids' Enrichment Hour, which, frankly, is just a way to indulge the child within as I teach them some of my favorite games and they teach me theirs. Don't be surprised if over the rest of the year you see us outside a lot...but I do hope by the time you read this letter, it will be a bit warmer outside!

Sincerely,

Erica Shadowsonq

Director of Religious Exploration

Board of Trustees Column



It's late winter, and that means it's time for a Town Hall meeting. This is an opportunity for the congregation to hear about, discuss, and contribute their input on issues being considered by the Board of Trustees. This year, the Town Hall meeting is scheduled for March 4 during enrichment hour. Although the agenda hasn't been finalized as of this writing, here are some likely topics:

- **Facilities:** One of the goals that the BOT has this year is to get a facilities improvement effort underway. We've done some visioning and talked to the Green Team, and have some exciting ideas. We need broader input before going much farther.
- **Dream Act and Immigration Issues:** Jane Hudson will give us an update on what's happening here.
- **Spirit of Life Center:** This program has been underway for several months, so we'll use this opportunity to update the congregation on it.
- **Long-term lease:** When we didn't renew the lease with the Montessori school two years ago, we had planned to lease the basement of the RE Building on a 24/7 basis to generate income while allowing us to reclaim the space upstairs to be wholly ours. The potential renters we've found haven't been interested in that -- most nibbles have come from schools and churches. We need to gather congregational input on the conflicting priorities of generating income and retaining exclusive use of our space.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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



Save the date!

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

Stewardship Campaign 2012
Caring for our Beloved Community

March 4 - April 22, 2012

We have a lot to celebrate here at Paint Branch. A hard-working staff, more programs and affinity groups than we can count, a wonderful music program, and people like you.

Our annual stewardship campaign kicks off on Sunday, March 4. The Chalice Dancers will be premiering a new dance especially for this service. You will be hearing testimonials from some of our youth, who grew up right here at Paint Branch.

This is the time of year when we are asked to renew our financial commitment to Paint Branch. For new members and friends, you may be asked to make a financial commitment for the first time. We have recruited an enthusiastic team of Visiting Stewards. Beginning March 4, you will be contacted by a Visiting Steward. Please set aside some time to have a conversation about how much Paint Branch means to you.

As always, all situations are different. All pledges are important, whether large or small. The main source of income for our operating budget comes from members and friends who have made a financial commitment in the form of a yearly pledge. We look forward to talking with you. Remember, we can't do it without you.



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

PBBUC Legacy Fund Update



On behalf of the PBBUC Legacy Fund Committee, I am pleased to report that the fund balance as of December 31, 2011, was approximately \$104,700. The fund, currently invested with the UU Common Endowment Fund, is in excellent shape despite the recent volatility in the financial markets.

The committee has begun to accept applications for new grants. The application for new grants is **April 20, 2012**. Grants of up to \$3,000 will be awarded in May. For more information or a grant application please contact Ken Redd, PBBUC Legacy Fund Committee Chair, at KRedd01@gmail.com.

Ken Redd, Chair
PBBUC Legacy Fund Committee

Monday Watercolorists Update

The current exhibit by the Monday Watercolorists will remain on display through March 11, 2012. Information about the specific paintings is posted on the pillar at the left side of the Meeting House at the back. The next exhibit will be collage and abstracts by two residents of Riderwood, Carolyn Stearns and Sylvia Valentino. Does all the beautiful work we have on display make you feel your creative urges stirring? Consider coming to the Artist in You Circle which is part of the Spirit of Life Center.



We meet on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 in rooms 2/3 in the RE Building. Find a supportive group of other artists there working, bring your own materials and if you wish donate \$5 each week. You may call Jane Trout for further information at [301-572-2898](tel:301-572-2898) or email jd_trout@msn.com.

Submitted by Jane Trout



In this little bit of space, we take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who contribute to the life of Paint Branch. Without the use of your many talents, it would be difficult to do all that needs to be done. The list is numerous... We thank you!

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

MARYLAND MAKING MARRIAGE EQUALITY HISTORY – WITH STRONG UU SUPPORT!

At this writing the Maryland House of Delegates has passed the *Civil Marriage Protection Act*! By the time you read this the likelihood is that the Senate will have too – and it will be signed into law by the governor! How proud we can be as UUs that for years our denomination has stood with the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender community in this campaign for equality under MD law - so that hundreds of civil marriage rights will be the same for GLBT couples, as they are for heterosexual couples who marry under Maryland law.

Very special thanks to Paint Branchers, and our wonderful minister Diane Teichert, who gave so much to reach this historic moment! Calls, letters & e-mails written to state legislators, *Standing on the Side of Love* valentines filled out, lobbying and attending hearings in Annapolis, going to special events for marriage equality at Busboys & Poets and other venues, making calls into targeted districts at our weekly phone bank, canvassing, speaking with friends and family, and so much else! Thank you all! Truly our UU social justice values were put into social action for a cause we deeply believed in; no matter what the outcome this year!

We are still in need of **Help with Data Entry for the Marylanders for Marriage Equality Coalition** on Wednesdays from 2-5 and Saturdays from 3-6. Contact Karess Taylor-Hughes, Regional field organizer, for more information at Phone: 202-216-1573, cell: 202-716-1604, and her e-mail: karess.taylor-hughes@hrc.org.

*Nancy Boardman, Chair
Social Action Committee*

Special Collections Update

The special collection for February 12 was taken for the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. Generous support from members of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church (Bethesda, Maryland) choir who sang with the PBUUC choir during Sunday Service, helped bring in \$401 in cash and \$615 in checks for a combined total of **\$1,016!**

The special collection for March 25 will be for Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ), a partnership of congregations, organizations and individuals deeply committed to our religious principles of human dignity, justice and compassion for all people. Checks may be made payable to: **UUSJ**.

New Immigration Justice Core Group Forming

The 2012 UUA General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona is being devoted to immigration justice. SAC is forming an Immigration Justice Core Group (Standing on the Side of Love) to decide what educational and advocacy issues Paint Branch members and friends should focus on this year. Many UU churches in the DC-MD-VA area are engaged in immigration activities. If you are interested in getting more involved in immigration issues and would like to have a voice in the direction Paint Branch goes, please come to the first meeting of the Immigration Justice Core Group during the enrichment hour on Sunday, March 17. Contact person:

Jane Huson, janedc2002@yahoo.com; 301-589-8708.



Community Café Call for Volunteers

If you are looking to do a short volunteer stint on a once a month basis, then come and join the Community Café volunteers who serve a hearty lunch to the hungry and homeless. The Café is sponsored by Paint Branchers on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at the Hyattsville First Methodist Church from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch is served at noon. You can get to know and work with our wonderful volunteers John Bartoli, Chuck Bury, Nancy Etkin, Jeri Holloway, Elizabeth Scheiman, Pat Tompkins, Alice Tyler, and Meg Waugh. On any given service day, five to seven volunteers serve the meal. Three volunteers take turns preparing the food which consists of five gallons of chili served on a split bun, with a side of pineapple chunks, a cold drink, and cookies for dessert. Community Café usually serves about 70 individuals, most of whom are day laborers, homeless and sometimes pre-school age children.

Submitted by: Esther Nichols

**Monthly SAC Meeting, Saturday, March 17
10 AM - Noon, Room 1, RE Building**

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



Moving into Action Multiculturally

Our congregation's intention to be multicultural must be grounded in our mission with goals we can act upon. In order for our January 16 Leadership Forum on Intentional Multiculturalism to result in successful outcomes, Taquiena Boston, Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness for the UUA, gave us specific multicultural tools to practice as four groups of church culture named existing assets and opportunities. She also pointed out that to move forward multiculturally, there will be group, committee, and congregational goals and that as individuals, we will also need to set personal goals for our spiritual growth and multicultural development.

It is encouraging that such groups as the Worship Associates, the newly reforming **Membership** Committee, the Religious Exploration Committee, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team, and the Social Action Committee are using the multicultural practices of **Mutual Invitation and Process Observation** in their meetings.

During the Leadership Forum, Taquiena Boston explained that speaking is empowering and that denying **members** in a group equal speaking time results in an uneven distribution of power rather than sharing power which is more consistent with our UU principles and with multicultural values. Taquiena provided a handout about Rev. Eric H. F. Law's **Mutual Invitation** method in groups of less than 12 people. The handout describes how to use a fishbowl technique in concentric circles for **town hall**-sized discussions.

Attendees divided into four broad categories of congregational life: Worship, Social Justice, **Community** Life, and Leadership Development. These groups practiced the mutual invitation process to consider who benefits from our current ways of operating -- whose lives are touched by the programs and worship that we currently offer. We were encouraged to think of our assets as those things we are currently doing that build **community** within and outside of the congregation, the things we currently do to foster interfaith, racial, cultural, sexual minority or generational inclusion, and to further consider how our ways of operating now impact relationships with those stakeholders. Our goal of advancing multiculturally will involve increasing our assets by expanding our inclusion of diverse stakeholders. Each group was asked to name specific actions to be taken for immediate goals (within the next **2** months), for intermediate goals (within **2-12** months) and for long-term goals that will realize our multicultural intentions. The following lists of actions will need to be reviewed, assessed, and modified as we continue to progress multiculturally.

Specific Actions to support Multiculturalism in Worship at Paint Branch:

- Conduct liturgical calendar audit to assess how diverse our worships really have been (immediate)
 - Communicate results to Worship Associates and Worship Staff (immediate)
 - Develop ways to involve congregation in diversity assessment of worship
 - Town Hall meetings?
 - Branches articles?
- Display liturgical calendar in foyer (intermediary goal – by September)
- Display liturgical calendar on website (intermediary goal – by September)
- Explore interfaith choir collaboration (intermediary or long term goal)
- Send staff to Marble Collegiate Worship Arts Conference (intermediary or long term goal)

Specific Actions to support Multiculturalism in Social Justice at Paint Branch:

- High Point High School
 - Continue to collect coats, guitars, and blue shirts (immediate)
 - Continue fingerprinting and background checks to work with students (immediate)

(continued on next page)

- Attend PTSA meetings (immediate and ongoing)
- Participate in Career Day (immediate and ongoing)
- Publicize these opportunities (immediate and ongoing)
- Begin tutoring (intermediate and long-term)
- Collaborate with Music Program (intermediate and long-term)
- Build trust and mutual relationship (long-term)
- Marriage Equality
 - Continue weekly phone banking (immediate and possible intermediate)
 - January 29 door-to-door canvassing (immediate)
 - February 13 Lobby Day in Annapolis (immediate)
 - Letter writing to legislators (immediate and possibly intermediate)
 - Continue personal persuasion efforts (immediate and possibly intermediate)
- Working with Casa de Maryland on Immigration Justice Efforts
 - January 28 UUSJ Arrest, Detention and Deportation workshop (immediate)
 - Form **organizing** and action group to determine the focus of next steps (immediate)
 - Comment on UUA's Congregational Study/Action Issue: *Immigration as a Moral Issue* (immediate)
 - March 17 workshop: *Immigration: Issues for Muslims and Asylum Seekers* (immediate)
 - June 20-24 UUA "Justice GA" (General Assembly in Phoenix) (Intermediate goal)
 - Continue Education that can lead to action about issues (Intermediate and long term)
 - Develop Spanish-English reciprocal language learning program (Intermediate & long term)

Specific Actions to support Multiculturalism in **Community Life at Paint Branch:**

- Set up meeting to develop a welcoming, outreach **membership** committee (immediate)
 - Committee would support current **member** needs
 - Committee would support Young Adults needs
- Set up meeting to develop an adult RE committee (immediate)
 - Assess multicultural gaps in current Enrichment Hour Activities (immediate)
 - Recommend and create classes that advance multiculturalism (intermediate)
- Assess multiculturalism in children's RE curriculum (immediate)

Specific Actions to support Multiculturalism in Leadership Development at Paint Branch:

- Count number of People of Color in leadership roles (immediate)
- Hold lay leaders responsible for transforming culture as PB realizes goal of multiculturalism (immediate and ongoing)
- Develop and use recruitment questions for potential leaders (immediate)
- Ask potential leaders how they believe change can happen (immediate)
- Ask potential leaders how and when they have motivated others (immediate)
- Ask leaders how they will positively influence multicultural transformation at **PBUUC** (immediate)
- Familiarize the congregation and leaders with multicultural values: (immediate and ongoing)
 - Cooperation and Collaboration that nurtures individual creativity
 - Both/And thinking that moves to collective action
 - Transparent Communication and Decision Making that safeguards personal integrity
 - An Abundant Worldview that uses resources responsibly
 - Accountable and Responsible Relationships with Broadly Shared Power
 - Mission Focus with a bias toward effectiveness

DARTT Continued...**LAY-LED SUMMER SERVICES PLANNING UNDERWAY**

One of our congregation's strengths is its tradition of strong services year round. Lay members, friends and guest speakers provide most of the services during the summer and throughout the year whenever the minister is away or off. The dates for the lay-led Summer Services traditionally run from the third Sunday in June through the Sunday before Labor Day. Our cadre of Worship Associates works with members and friends to coordinate these services.

On Sunday, March 18 and Sunday, April 29 during Enrichment Hour (from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm), the Worship Associates will host two Summer Services Planning Meetings. (Child care is available during Enrichment Hour.)

March 18

If you, your affinity group or committee has an idea for a Summer Service, bring it to this meeting. Your proposal should consist of a theme, an in-progress plan--the more developed the better--, some proposed dates, and contact information for the Service Leader(s). If you can't attend, you may send a proxy, or submit a written proposal to any Worship Associate prior to the meeting.

If you plan to have a guest speaker, performer, etc., there are no funds available for honoraria, but we will consider the sale of their books, CDs, etc., on the day of their service. (This should be part of your proposal.) Whether you plan to do this yourself, with a group, or bring in an outside speaker, now is the time to start planning.

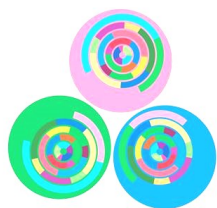
April 29

Before this second meeting, you'll be notified if your proposal has been scheduled. At the meeting, we will discuss your more fully-developed plan, firm up a date and assign a Worship Associate who will work with you on all the details necessary to present an excellent service in the best Paint Branch tradition!

New proposals for Summer Services will be considered at this second meeting only if the full schedule has not been filled. You can contact any Worship Associate for more information. We are: Claire Boston, Celinda Marsh, Don Mitchell, Marilyn Pearl, Ken Redd, John Sebastian and Carol Carter Walker.

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

**Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)
Planning Meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. in
Room 1, RE Building**

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Presents Mosaic Harmony Saturday, May 5

Mosaic Harmony is an interracial, interfaith community choir that provides "Service through Song" by singing inspirational music based upon the gospel tradition. Mosaic Harmony was founded and is still supported by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax.

DARTT is pleased to present Mosaic Harmony in concert at Paint Branch on Saturday, May 5, at 7:00 pm. A reception will follow the concert. Child care will be provided.

Tickets will go on sale at the end of March. They will be \$15 for adults. All children and youth are free. If you'd like to reserve your tickets early, send an e-mail to dartt@pbuuc.org

Fortune's Bones. The Story Continues ...

The Manumission Requiem is done. About 40 Paint Branchers and their friends attended one of the performances on February 25 or February 26. Three members of our congregation were part of the event, serving in the African bell chorus or the choir. Several went to lunch on Sunday before the performance.

There are other activities at the University of Maryland and other venues about Fortune and his story. Please pick up a brochure in the Meeting House Foyer, or go to www.claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/fortune. You may also talk to our Minister, Reverend Diane Teichert, who is part of the Fortune Planning Committee.

Green Team News



UPDATE ON COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING

PBUUC is located in Prince George's County which practices Single Stream recycling. Don't stop reading now! Single Stream recycling is really easy. Everything gets dumped into one bin, which is then collected, taken to a central facility for sorting with advanced large machines. Everything is recycled except styrofoam, packing foam and peanuts, auto parts, and hazardous materials which do not degrade. There are signs posted by each recycling bin in the church describing what can be recycled. Compost also has signs posted by the collecting bins. We currently accept all food waste, paper products, teabags, coffee grounds; anything you consume or the paper plates you consume it on can be thrown right in the compost bin. What could be easier?

If you decide to dump the compost bin in the larger bins outside, please cover up what you have dumped with leaves and put some leaves at the bottom of the bin to bring back inside. The Green Team has noticed an increase in both recycling and composting! Keep up the good work! And thank you to all those Stewards out there, you ARE making a huge difference!

The Board of Trustees met with the Green Team, February 19 to discuss what's involved with a parking lot upgrade. Drainage is obviously one of the big issues and we are looking for passionate people to help professionals in the search for a solution. We are committed to constructing a green parking lot, that will be inviting to all comers.

Maryland Bills Worth Supporting

In February a letter writing project was held to encourage PBUUC members and friends to contact their Delegates and State Senators about the bill being considered that would prohibit drilling for natural gas, using the injection of water and chemicals under pressure to fracture the shale holding the gas, until adequate and safe regulations can be adopted and the work of the Governor's Commission on drilling in our State has been completed. Both Clean Water Action and Chesapeake Climate Action Network, from whom we have had a great deal of valuable help over the years, have adopted the urgent position of delaying lifting the moratorium until the work of the Commission is complete.

The Governor's bill establishing the development of wind power infrastructure in certain offshore locations has a very good chance of passing this session. This technology for Maryland has been studied extensively. It would mean increasing independence from coal- and oil-burning sources of energy. There is a long list of Sponsors in addition to the Governor so it just needs encouragement from a significant number of voters, and that's us.

If you missed the letter writing table last month it is not too late. It is easy to find your Delegates and Senator on line by going to the following website: <http://mdelect.net/> then type in your address and a list of your elected officials appear with corresponding address, phone number, and email address when you click on the name.

The next meeting of the Green Team is March 11 during Enrichment Hour. Meetings are open, so bring your ideas and help us move on these issues.

Community Organizing by Two PBUUC Members

Jennifer Robinson led the PBUUC Green Team through the process of completing requirements for our denomination's Green Sanctuary Certificate. (It is on display in the meeting house foyer.) Now she has moved on to take the lead on a request to the Greenbelt City Council that it go on record as opposing the recent Supreme Court ruling which allows unlimited funding of political campaigns by corporations. In early February she presented a petition signed by many Greenbelt residents to the City Council. Such requests are in process in many towns and cities across the country as a preliminary to Congressional action or a Constitutional Amendment. Her comments were very logically presented and were well received by the Council members and citizens in attendance. A year ago, immediately after the Court's decision was announced, our member, Jessica Sharp, began organizing a rally in Annapolis that resulted in a very few days of a list of over twenty speakers including Delegates and Senators as well as leaders from organizations long associated with civil liberties. We can be proud of both these members and do what we can to help with this issue, however we see the question of freedom of speech. Both Jennifer and Jessica can be contacted on e mail at : jrobinson720@yahoo.com and spangledangle@gmail.com.

Submitted by: Penny O'Brien and Marge Owens

In and Around Paint Branch



Newcomer's Classes

Saturday, March 10

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism 10:00am - 12:00 noon

Finding Your Way in PBUUC 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Light Lunch 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

If you are new to Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, join the Minister for the classes she loves to lead.

Come for one or both. Either way, enjoy fellowship over lunch.

In the morning, you will learn about the journey of Unitarian Universalism: the long-ago roots of our living tradition, how it evolved in the United States, where it is today and what its creative tensions may be going forward – all considered in relation to your own religious journey, with time for sharing with other participants.

In the afternoon, you will meet our congregation's elected leaders as well as some of those who lead our programs and activities. You will hear fascinating stories from its past, and be helped to figure out how the congregation is organized, what our major programs are – those that serve the congregation, those that serve the community, and those that try to change the world – and how you can get involved.

Interested? Please sign up in the Foyer on Sunday, call or contact the PBUUC office: [301-937-3666](tel:301-937-3666) or email churchadmin@pbuuc.org. Childcare will be provided if requested.

Suggested homework: the recommended and very readable *Our Chosen Faith*, by John Buehrens and Forrest Church, is available for sale (\$15) or to borrow in the Foyer on Sundays, or may be ordered from the UUA Bookstore [at http://www.uuabookstore.org/](http://www.uuabookstore.org/).

As you are getting to know the congregation, Rev. Teichert is available to meet with you to discuss your questions or for pastoral care (perhaps regarding your faith journey, transitions in your life, or your joys and sorrows). Please call her at [301-937-3666](tel:301-937-3666) or email minister@pbuuc.org to set up a time to talk, in her office, at your house, or near where you work or live for tea/coffee or lunch.

Special Message from Spirit of Life Center

Commit to Change This Spring! The Spirit of Life Center is offering a very special six week program, geared to put you on a path to attain balance, vitality and a higher quality of life. This program will help you cultivate new simple habits to bring you peace, love, health and financial security. For a suggested donation of only \$125 (normally \$175), this package includes six weeks of the following classes and workshops:

Saturdays, March 10 – April 14*



Quality of Life Workshop – Six Sessions-----8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Meditation Workshop – Six Sessions-----9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Laughter Yoga Mini Session – Six Sessions-----10:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Simplicity Circle Workshop – Six Sessions-----11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

[RSVP for Package](#) by February 25 to be guaranteed a spot!

*Dates assuming a minimum of 8 participants

Please see our full-page ad on the page 15 for our regular offerings!

In and Around Paint Branch (continued)

**The Head and Heart History Group (H3G) Presents:
'Honoring the Indigenous Stewards of PBUUC's Land: the Anacostians'**

On October 6, 2011, our fellow congregant, Carol Carter Walker, posted a notice on our listserv indicating that the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) was encouraging us to 'celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10' (rather than Columbus Day). She also posted the following background information:

“Some of the activities that UUA headquarters and staff suggest as ways to honor indigenous people are:

- Engage with “Immigration As A Moral Issue,” the 2010-2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue.
- Find out whose land your congregation’s facilities were built on.
- Build and strengthen connections to nearby Native communities.
- Provide age-appropriate education on Native American lives and cultures.
- Host a congregation-wide common read and book discussion.”

As a person raised to identify as ‘African American’, my participation as head of H3G (starting in early 2011) had, by that time, very much enriched my own 'encouragement to spiritual growth'; particularly in terms of paying holistic homage to my geographically-various indigenous ancestral lineages (rather than solely those from Africa – where most, but NOT all, of them root). Thus, by then, certain details of my life journey in this respect enabled me to easily attain and post the following information on October 8 in response to Carol’s suggestions above and recommendation to find out whose land our congregation’s facilities were built on.

I received this response (from Rico Newman: spokesman for the Piscataway Conoy branch of the Piscataway – natives of southern PG County), "Riverdale, Adelphi, Hyattsville, College Park, Cottage City, Kenilworth, Bladensburg and other areas along the northern reaches of what is known as the Anacostia River and its tributaries were used as permanent and wintering grounds by the Nacotchhtank (Anacostians) and related tribes."

Since I attained this information in October, my continued activities along these lines enabled me to forge even tighter interactional bonds with certain members of the Piscataway community. As a result, I was honored to share in their joy on January 9, 2012 upon their attaining formal state recognition in Maryland! No other Native group has of yet achieved said recognition; and it was through a very frustrating, decades-long ordeal that the Piscataway finally achieved this goal.

In light of this combination of events, it occurred to me as the head of H3G, to invite Mr. Newman to speak on his knowledge of both the traditional land and ways of life of his Piscataway ancestors, as well as those of their northern neighbors; the Anacostians (the founding caretakers of PBUUC's land and stream). To my delight, he agreed!

The event will take place during Enrichment Hour on Sunday, March 11. I have chosen this date, in part, to honor the March 9 birthday of Amerigo Vespucci; the man who 'set the record straight' that the New World was not 'India'. Hence the theme of Mr. Newman's talk will be along the lines of 'Setting the Record Straight' in terms of the lifeways of both the Piscataway, and the Anacostians. All are welcome to attend! To RSVP and attain additional details, please send an email: headhearthisory@pbuuc.org.

Submitted by: Kweli Powell

Remember the Gah Rham?

Our long time **TWedHUULK** regulars will have fond memories of Larry Lates' favorite buffet. The Gah Rham at 5027 Garrett Ave. in Beltsville features a pan Asian menu, with a few tables equipped with Korean barbeque stoves. It is inexpensive, the food is very tasty, and it is advertised as “all you can eat.”

The Third Wednesday Handy UU Lunch Klub will meet on Wednesday, March 21 at 1:00 pm. If you are able to join us please contact Marge Owens on lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572. It is located in a shopping strip half a block off Baltimore Ave. (Rte. 1). To find Garrett Ave. (where you will turn left if you are driving north) remember it is between Behnke's Garden Center and Remington's bar and grill.



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Immigration: Issues for Muslims and for Asylum Seekers

Saturday, March 17 1:00-4:30

All Souls Church, Unitarian 1500 Harvard St. NW Washington, DC 2009

Critical Issues facing Muslim Immigrants will be addressed by Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, Director of Outreach for the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Northern Virginia and Immigrants Seeking Asylum - The Basics will be addressed by Lisa Johnson-Firth, attorney, Immigrants First and Linda Rabben, author, editor and anthropologist, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. To register: Click on the Register for Upcoming Events banner at www.uusj.org or send name, congregation, email or phone to info at uusj.org or UUSJ P.O. Box 56402 Washington, DC 20040 **202-600-9132**. This program is sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. There is no registration fee, but a freewill offering for UUSJ will be taken. This program is funded in part by the UU Fund for Social Responsibility.

UU United Nations Intergenerational Seminars in New York City — April 12 to 14

The topic will be “Beyond Borders: Breaking Barriers of Race and Immigration.” These meetings are always very full of new thinking introduced by speakers recruited from universities; people working in risky, new approaches to thorny problems. At the intersection of race and immigration, we will observe that the experiences of an immigrant (documented or not) from Sweden is most likely very different from the experience of an immigrant (documented or not) from Latin America or Africa. Why is that? What can we do?

Young people arrive a day early to do the final planning for the 3 days of work on the topic. The young people who attend, juniors and seniors in high school or early college age, are very well prepared on the topics - and prepared to have a good time. They sleep in the nearby All Souls UU Church a few subway stops from our meeting location, with sleeping bags. The fees for youth are kept affordable. Half the meals are provided at no cost by neighboring UU congregations. Half those who attend, both youth and older people, are always Canadian UUs. And about half those who attend are youth. We usually attend a hearing at the U.N. Headquarters on our topic.

There are no registration fees for those who have attended in the past and now are willing to act as mentors for a group of youth throughout the seminars. Adults who plan to attend may try to register for the days they plan to be in NYC at the YMCA nearest to the U.N. It fills very early. Another YMCA is available but is further away. There are several relatively lower cost hotels some of us have used. Details of the cost of registering and hotel rates will be available soon.

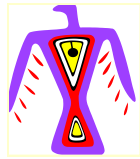
The UU UNO gets more exciting every year. It has very recently become an arm of the UUA for the first time since it was begun with the help of Adlai Stevenson, a Unitarian and the first U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations after its establishment. Contact Marge Owens on lowellandmarge@verizon.net or **301-345-1572** if you are interested.

UU Christian Gathering in VA March 22-25

"Welcoming the Feminine in Christianity: Many Voices, Many Verses" is the theme of the Revival/Retreat 2012 gathering on March 22-25 sponsored by the national Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship, to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, VA.

Three Keynote lectures will include: **"Feminist Theologies in Action: Women Around the World Doing Faith-based Justice Work"** by **Dr. Mary E. Hunt, author and co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual.** **"Wide Open Spaces: Women's Voices in Christianity"** by **Dr. Amy Oden, author and Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary.** **"Mary Magdalene: Woman and Archetype"** by **Margaret Starbird, author and lecturer on the Divine Feminine in Christianity.**

The event is open to all regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, visit www.uuchristian.org or contact Executive Director Rev. Ron Robinson, executivedirector@uuchristian.org or 918-691-3223.



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	301-982-0758
Allison Hughes	301-864-1889
Iris Peabody	301-593-4095
Gloria ("Genie") Van Pelt - March	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	Church Office	301-937-3666
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	Wendy Schlegel	301-649-4976
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.ORG

EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

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