



BRANCHES



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

January 2013

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

Nursery Care in Room 5 from 9:45-12:45

Refreshments and Fellowship after the service

Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45 - Childcare until 12:45

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

January 6

Love and Loyalty: A Wedding Celebration!

Rev. Diane Teichert with Bettie Young, Worship Associate

On the Sunday following January 1, 2013, the first day on which it is legal for gay and lesbian couples to wed, we will celebrate, reflect on the nature of enduring intimate relationships, and honor the life-time commitments of all couples - gay and straight, newly-wed or long-time, even those who by death have been parted. Following the service, there will be a "wedding reception" for all ages complete with wedding cake and a DJ! Feel free to dress up!

January 13

Palace in Time

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Montana Monardes, Worship Associate
and Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration*

The great 20th century Rabbi Abraham Heschel described the Sabbath as a "palace in time." How would it change our lives to reside in that palace for a day each week, as the Ten Commandments instruct? An extraordinary Special Collection will be taken for those still without homes due to Hurricane Sandy (see page 8). This is also Signing Sunday – those who are ready to sign the PBUUC Membership Book, please meet the Minister and Board member at the chalice after the service.

January 20

Names So American: Guns and Race

Rev. Diane Teichert and Ken Redd, Worship Associate, and the Choir

Today we honor the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was killed by a gunman. About a month has passed since the mass murders by gunshot in a Connecticut elementary school, causing a collective wail among us and raising the question of gun control yet again. Today newcomers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office from 11:30 to 12:30.

January 27

I Dream a World

*Guest Preacher Rev. John Crestwell with John Sebastian, Worship Associate
and Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration*

This poem by the late poet Langston Hughes describes a world "where greed no longer saps the soul...where love will bless the earth and peace its path adorn..." Such beautiful words, but how do we get to this beloved community he describes? asks Rev. Crestwell (see bio on page 11). The monthly Special Collection will be taken today for Housing Initiative Partnership (see page 8).

**Which of your friends, co-workers, and neighbors
made a New Year's Resolution to find a spiritual community?
Please invite them to our Sunday service!**

Table of Contents

January 2013 Sunday Services	Page 1	January Special Collections	Page 8
Table of Contents	Page 2	Don't Forget Guest at Your Table Boxes	Page 8
Note to Our Readers	Page 2	Special Invitation from UULM-MD	Page 9
The Minister's mUUsings	Page 3	TWedHUULK Going to Tara Thai Again	Page 9
Note to Newcomers	Page 3	Diversity / Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)	
Wheel of Life	Page 3	Goodloe Fundraiser Update	Page 9
We Care Coordinator Information	Page 4	New Covenant Group	Page 10
Religious Exploration	Page 4	Site Improvement Committee News	Page 10
Board of Trustees Column	Page 5	Denominational Affairs Committee News	Pages 10-11
Warm Nights Week	Pages 5-6	In and Around Paint Branch	
Annual Auction Update	Page 6	Meet the Guest Preacher	Page 11
Social Action Committee (SAC) News		Art Happenings	Pages 11-12
Kick-Off Debriefing Meeting	Page 7	Aging Well Workshop	Page 12
PBUUC Tutoring Update	Page 7	Paid Position Opening	Page 12
Next SAC Meeting	Page 7	The Wider UU Universe	
Baltimore Fracking Conference	Pages 7-8	Murray Grove News Update	Page 12
<i>Promised Land</i>	Page 8	Spirit of Life Center	Page 13
		Leadership Directory	Page 14

Note to Our Readers:

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES: All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to: branches@pbuuc.org.

The Leadership Directory, now listed on the last page, will contain names only. For more contact information, please consult your Membership Directory. All submitted articles will contain phone numbers for contact if listed. You may choose to list your email address only as a point of contact.

Editorial Guidelines

- The deadline for submission of articles and other content to Branches is on the **20th day of every month**, except during the holidays. Mary Dancy is currently acting as coordinator of text and graphics for the newsletter.
 - * 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. **Reminder: Articles significantly over the 250 word limit may be returned to the author for re-editing.**
- The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the Sunday Order of Service bulletin is **every Wednesday at 12 noon**.
 - * Announcements should be submitted in their final form using the Times New Roman font, 12 point size, and content should be 120 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.

Scroll down to "This Week" and click on "More Upcoming Events."

Click on the Calendar grid to the left to advance to the next month.

The Minister's mUUsings...

I want to share these words* with you:



“The first of January is another day dawning, the sun rising as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms, with or without our calendars to name a certain day as the day of new

beginning, separating the old from the new. So it is: everything is the same, bound into its history as we ourselves are bound.

Yet also we stand at a threshold - the New Year something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands.

What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year? Let us begin by remembering that whatever justice, whatever peace and wholeness might bloom in our world this year, we are the hearts and minds, the hands and feet, the embodiment of all the best visions of our people.

The New Year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams.

Let us take the step forward together, onto new ground, planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.”

As I ponder these words, the notion of “embodiment” strikes me as central. And it seems to me that it is not only “in our world” but also *in our own particular lives* that we will embody justice, peace, and wholeness so they might bloom. For they are not just great and distant societal “dreams.”

They are realizable in any given moment, in small and large ways, in how we feel about our selves and in our relationships within our congregation and with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, caregivers, and the strangers we will meet as we traverse the days, weeks and months of this new year.

Indeed, let us *together* take not only “the step” but also “the steps” forward, planting our dreams in the New Year’s new ground, faithfully and in joy. With such vision, both public and personal, who knows what will come of our steps? Thus, there is hope!

One of my hopes for the New Year is to see you on Sundays, because that is where and when we create the Beloved Community that nourishes our vision.

Diane

* Reading #544 in the back of our hymnal was written by a respected colleague, Rev. Kathleen McTigue, former minister of the Unitarian Society of New Haven CT and now director of the UU College of Social Justice, a new travel-service-learning program for youth and adults of the UU Service Committee. For information, visit <http://www.uusc.org/college>.

Informal Gathering for Newcomers

**With the Minister Sunday, January 20
after the Service**

**Contact Rev. Teichert at minister@pbuuc.org
or 301-937-3666**

Wheel of Life



We are holding in our hearts these people among us...

Marj Donn, whose husband Bert is at home and in hospice care after his recent hospitalization.

The family of Rob Boston whose mother died on December 7, less than two months since the death of Carol’s father.

Andy Myrup and Elizabeth Yanowitch whose mother died on December 10.

Mary Carson, whose former husband Bob Auerbach was killed by a car in Greenbelt on December 12.

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Wheel of Life continued

If 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 at [301-937-3666](tel:301-937-3666) or at [781-676-0097](tel:781-676-0097) if urgent.

If you are in need of practical assistance (such as rides, meals, visits, or phone conversation), please contact **Jeri Holloway**, the We Care Coordinator for **January**, at [301-982-0758](tel:301-982-0758) or Holl5d@aol.com.

Religious Exploration

The Halfway Mark

Hello, PBUUC families!

As I write this, of course, perhaps like many of you, I am struck by the quick passage of time that is marked by our seasonal rituals, celebrations and life events, and I feel as though I understand why it is so important to us to mark them!

With the winter months being such a good time for a bit of rest, reflection and rebooting, my own thoughts are turning to looking over some of the things that mark my second year with you.

I feel that some things have settled in nicely. One of the accomplishments of the RE program I'm most pleased with this year has been the looking ahead. The stalwart and very creative RE Committee took ownership of the Holiday party this year, which, although you may not know it, has not always been solely their responsibility. We had an awesome spread of a variety of homemade chili, suitable for just about every dietary need, macaroni and cheese, cornbread, and several delicious beverages from which to choose. Crafts and decorating were overseen by volunteers on the committee and within the general PBUUC community. I'd say the overall feel of the event was cheerful and contented, and I hope that is how those of you who attended experienced it as well!

This month, the RE Committee and I have had a chance to look at how to continue to support our volunteers and help them feel appreciated, so we're delightedly planning a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for Sunday, January 27. I will boast about the details in my next letter, since I don't want to give them away, but I'm fairly confident that after reading them, many of you will be just the *tiniest* bit envious!

We had several new teachers and volunteers join us this year, and they are doing a wonderful job. The coordination among them has been excellent, and I am always, always impressed

and inspired by their commitment to the children and youth in our program. Speaking of the youth, I see them (you) blossoming, shaping into the leaders you have always known you were. I don't know if you see it the same way I and others do, but for starters, the sense of engagement I get back from calls and invitations to be involved in this or that PBUUC activity, in spite of all the many, many other activities you have going on in your lives, stands out. I and those you have stepped up to help are most grateful, and I hope we have been able to convey this.

By now we have had several All Ages Services, put together by members of the RE community, the worship staff and volunteers, and other groups such as DARTT, and I am aware of a greater sense of intergenerational awareness among our congregation than perhaps may be found at others, who are still trying to learn how to engage all ages at once. It's always a work in progress, but one of the things I am impressed with at PBUUC is the *care* and attention that goes into the intergenerational events that we have. I have found, through talking with other colleagues, that this often remains a struggle in many congregations.

There are so many neat achievements and hallmarks to list, and I cannot do them all justice here. Suffice it to say that in this past winter holiday month, I hope all of you have an opportunity to stop and take a look back with me over what has gone well this year, what your family has been a part of, and the fact that we now share these memories as members of a larger family. I am very much enjoying my second year with you, and I hope you are enjoying it with me too!

Warmly,

Erica Shadowsong
Director of Religious Exploration



Board of Trustees Column

The Board Beat

January 2013

Like many of our non-profit and governmental counterparts at the state and local level, we as a congregation have been operating under our own austerity budgets for last few years. In the most recent budget, the BOT approved, for the first time in church history, an operating budget that showed a \$4,000 loss for the year. As we have become accustomed to this state of operations, we have foregone opportunities to advance the programmatic offerings of the church and perhaps have dismissed opportunities solely because of their budgetary impacts.

Recently, we have been the recipient of a generous donation of \$56,000 from long time members Ken Jenkins and Mary Ellen Martinez; and while we are very grateful for this donation it is not an amount sufficient to address our long term financial issues; nor is it sufficient to address those needs this and prior Boards of Trustees have identified as priorities, in ways that will satisfy all stakeholders.

Since the receipt of this donation has become known, many groups within the Church have approached the Treasurer with appropriation requests. It is in this context that the BOT is soliciting input from all areas of the congregation to determine how best to use our capital, in terms of both financial and talent resources, to increase our ability to fulfill at least one of the following goals:

1. Increase our annual income so that we can return to our practice of paying our Fair Share Dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and its Joseph Priestley District (JPD-our regional organization) which will be \$87 per member in FY 2013-14.

2. Add to our programmatic offerings with the potential to increase membership and/or invigorate our current membership.

In the coming weeks of the New Year we encourage all members and entities within our congregation to generate new and innovative approaches to help foster a growing and sustainable church. Watch for announcements about public feedback events.

The Board of Trustees holds OPEN Executive Committee meetings and Board of Trustees meetings. Typically the Executive Committee meeting, at which the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting is finalized, is held on the THIRD Tuesday of each month, (usually in the Minister's Office), and the full Board of Trustees meeting is held in Room 4 of the RE Building on the FOURTH Wednesday of each month.

We welcome visitors: if you wish to request that an item be added to the agenda, please let the Chair or one of the Vice-Chairs know no later than the Monday before the Executive Committee meeting, or come to the Exec Com meeting; if you wish to observe or to speak to an item on the agenda, come to the BOT meeting itself. For more information about the experience of visiting the BOT meetings, see the following page on the PBUUC website: <http://www.pbuuc.org/bot/visitors.php>.

On behalf of your 2012-2013 Board of Trustees: Don Gerson and Charles Towe, Vice Chairs, and Trustees Evangeline Wells, Alice Tyler, Don Henderson, Mark Shute, and Don Mitchell, I wish you all the best for a New Year filled with Love, Hope and Peace!



Michel Léger, Chair, Board of Trustees



Warm Nights Week is Sunday, January 27 – February 3, 2013!

Paint Branch is one of many churches participating in the Prince George's County Hypothermia Program offering a "Warm Nights" Homeless Emergency Shelter week organized by Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI). During our week, we expect to host approximately 25 guests, and CCSI staff members, who can be identified by their Blue Vest with the word "STAFF" written on the back. The CCSI staff will include Shelter Monitors, Van Drivers, and Case Workers. *Any and all requests from our guests (for clothing, socks, toothbrushes, money, over the counter medication, baby formula, diapers, etc.) must be directed to the Shelter Monitor, who will address individual needs.*

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Warm Nights (continued)

Case managers register participants, maintain case files on each guest, secure their medications, and meet with them weekly to determine their needs and concerns. Beginning at 6pm each night, we offer our guests a warm welcome, hot dinners, friendly conversation, cots (provided by CCSI and set up by us), a warm and quiet place to sleep (they are awakened at 5:30am!), a quick breakfast and a bag lunch to grab as they catch the vans that leave Paint Branch no later than 7am.

You can help provide “radical hospitality” during this much-needed week of temporary shelter in many ways. Each night of our week, we will need 2 people to be the **Overnight Church Representative/Hosts**, who arrive between 8-8:30pm, meet the CCSI staff, sleep on cots in the kitchen/sound room area and wake at 5:30am to prepare coffee, and set out a quick breakfast with the prepared lunch bags for our guests (who will be in a hurry to board the vans between 6 and 7am). As one of the Overnight Church Representatives, you will experience one night of the accommodations our guests experience everyday. Overnight Hosts leave the kitchen clean and swept in preparation for the evening dinner.

We will need at least two **Grocery-shopping volunteers** for a COSTCO trip on Saturday, **January 26** and will also need additional grocery-shopping volunteers for more milk and other items as needed during the week.

On Sunday, **January 27**, after the coffee time, we will need a team of **Able-bodied Cot Setter-uppers** to clear chairs out of the sanctuary, set up a long row of eating tables in the center of the room, move and set up the CCSI cots, and arrange the wall dividers to provide some semblance of privacy between the men and women’s sleeping areas. Similarly, the cots, dividers, and tables must be cleared away and chairs set up between 7 and 9am for the Sunday Worship Service on February 3.

We welcome affinity groups to claim a night for Kitchen Dinner Duty. Perhaps part of your January gatherings will include coordinating a dinner meal. Volunteers donate each part of the meal and bring it to the church by 6pm or earlier to re-heat it. The health department requires us to wear gloves and head-coverings as we serve our guests, handle left-overs, prepare the bagged lunches, and boil eggs for breakfast. The Kitchen Dinner group leaves the kitchen clean and swept. There are many tasks to spread among group members and sitting down to share the meal and friendly conversation with our guests is encouraged. You are likely to find that your food and company are much appreciated. (Our guests love to meet the cooks!)

Not surprisingly, the demand for emergency shelter has increased with the economic downturn. This year, to attempt to address the overflow, there will be 2 churches offering Warm Nights Shelter each week during the times of greatest need between December 16 and March 17.

Typically, our guests are of diverse ages, races, and physical abilities. You may find our guests have varied occupational backgrounds and may include homeless transgendered people. Some will be introverts; some will be extroverts. Many will be exhausted. All guests deserve to be welcomed warmly. Our Warm Nights week is one of many ways we demonstrate our hospitality and intentional multiculturalism. Look for Tricia Most and Sabrina Finlay in the lobby after church to sign up as a volunteer.



Submitted by Tricia Most
Coordinator, Warm Nights

Annual Auction Update

Thank you to all who volunteered, donated, purchased and supported this fundraising and community building event.

The Auction 2012 Planning Team will host a Debriefing Meeting on Sunday, **February 10, 2013** during Enrichment Hour.

Come to this meeting to provide feedback on the 2012 Auction and ideas to be considered for the 2013 Auction.

Mark Shute, who has volunteered to be the Auction 2013 Team Leader, will be there to hear your ideas. Contact auction@pbuuc.org if you have any questions or issues relating to your donations, winnings or payments for the 2012 Auction or ideas about the upcoming one.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Join DARTT, the Green Team & SAC Sunday, January 20 during Enrichment Hour for an Important Debriefing Meeting

Our jointly sponsored third annual *Social, Racial, Earth Justice Kick Off Through a Multicultural Lens*, held on September 29, 2012, was an important start to our church year's social justice activities.

Please join us in the Kelley Room on **Sunday, January 20** as we take time to look back on the Kick-Off and discuss and learn about what folks think went well and not so well.

As we look ahead to next year's event this will be an important help to our planning and making next year's Kick-Off even better! Please join us and share your ideas – even if you didn't attend this year but have ideas about how to encourage Paint Branchers to be part of our social justice work.

*Submitted by Nancy Boardman
Chair, Social Action Committee*



PBUUC TUTORING PROGRAM UPDATE

Plans continue to move ahead toward the implementation of our own tutoring program at PBUUC. The program will operate through the Spirit of Life Program. In late October Rev. Diane Teichert, Nancy Boardman, and Carmelita Carter-Sykes met with officials at CASA de Maryland officials: their Manager of Immigrant Integration Programs, Coordinator of Citizenship Programs and the Manager of Education Programs to discuss ways in which PBUUC might coordinate our outreach efforts with their activities.

More recently Nancy and Carmelita attended CASA's deferment application completion training. While they decided not to do the afternoon training that day, they were given the volunteer packet, directions and an overview of the process for completing the deferment form.

Submitted by Carmelita Carter-Sykes



Baltimore Fracking Conference and Recommended Action

Five members of Paint Branch and many UUs from around Maryland were part of a crowd of just under 400 who attended the December 8 conference on fracking co-sponsored by Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), Interfaith Power and Light, the NAACP, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Environment MD.

We heard about health issues affecting those who work on the drilling rigs and who drive the trucks transporting waste water containing the toxic fracking chemicals; suspected health issues for those living near a fracking operation and the need for definitive studies; and the effects of methane and carbon dioxide leakage on the global atmosphere.

Land owners are being pressured to sell or lease their mineral rights. Additional lobbyists have been hired to work with those who represented the energy companies last year. They are able to give generously to campaign funds of legislators, especially those on committees responsible for determining how the Governor's moratorium will be used to evaluate research and plan regulations.

Mike Tidwell, Director of CCAN, who has spoken at Paint Branch from time to time, pointed out how many environmental issues have been successfully brought to public awareness and then to the attention of our State General Assembly. We have responsive legislators who work hard but who need to hear from informed voters about difficult, complicated issues.

The non-stop TV and print ads praising natural gas production we have all seen over the past several years are ingenious and sophisticated. They leave out the concerns about methane leakage associated with transporting the liquefied natural gas; the effects on landowners living next to an industrial site lit up 24/7; the noise, constant truck traffic, difficulties of disposal of spent fracking fluid, and still unstudied and unknown short- and long-term health effects on all who are served by water supplies near areas where drilling and pumping take place. The Green Team will be bringing information to Paint Branch so we can be

**Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting, Saturday,
January 26, 2013 at 10:00 in Room #1 of the RE Building**

(continued on next page)

SAC continued

effective along with other concerned Maryland citizens in insisting that their funds for studying these questions must be appropriated and the results weighed **prior** to lifting the Governor's moratorium on fracking.

A surprise at the end of the day was a talk by environmental author Lester Brown. A Paint Branch group led by Marj Donn, has just finished reading his book, "World on the Edge." His message was cautiously optimistic:

"If the developed nations made a turn-around immediately to reduce carbon and methane releases, and became serious about water conservation, species preservation, and equitable distribution of essential resources, the future of the Earth might be brought back from disaster."

Submitted Iris Peabody, Penny O'Brien, and Marge Owens

Fracking lobbyists Prepare case against Matt Damon's movie *Promised Land*



A leading lobby group, **Energy in Depth**, has prepared a 'cheat sheet' of pro-fracking talking points before the release of the Gus Van Sant drilling-rights drama *Promised Land* to counter any bad publicity that may arise following its limited release on December 28, with a wider run in January.

The film is the first Hollywood treatment of one of the most contentious issues in rural America: the boom in natural-gas production that has been unlocked by hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling.

Matt Damon stars as a gas company salesman who travels the dying towns of the American heartland, buying up drilling rights from struggling farmers. In the film, any reservations Damon's character might have about his job catch up with him in Pennsylvania, where a high-school teacher and an environmental activist try to persuade the town that allowing fracking will poison their water and kill their livestock.

Excerpt taken from Guardian.co.uk, 12.17.2012

JANUARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

There will be two special collections held during the month of January.



On Sunday, **January 13**, a special collection will be taken to benefit victims of hurricane Sandy which caused wide spread devastation along the Mid-Atlantic coast in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and as far as eastern Ohio in early November. Many people are still without basic necessities such as winter coats and jackets, as well as cleaning supplies.

To aid our UU congregations and members who have been affected by this tragedy, CERG UU Disaster Relief Fund was initiated to collect donations to assist fellow Unitarian Universalists with storm damage clean up and members' immediate needs and in the rebuilding efforts. The funds collected will be used for UU congregations, or for general relief work use, or for both.

Checks can be made out to **CERG with Disaster Relief Fund** in the memo line. If you would like more information about CERG-UUA, please visit <http://cerguua.org/>.



On Sunday, **January 27**, there will be a special collection for **Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP)**, an innovative, green nonprofit developer based in Prince George's County, Maryland dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods and removing blight. HIP creates housing and economic opportunities for persons of low- and moderate-income and provides services that improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Checks may be made payable to **Housing Initiative Partnership**. More information is available at <http://hiphomes.org/wp/>.



Don't Forget! Guest at Your Table boxes, which were distributed at the special collection on November 18, should be brought to the service on the first Sunday in January so that the donations collected can be sent directly to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). A table will be set up in the foyer of the Meeting House to collect the boxes. Thank you for your generosity during the holiday season!

A Special Invitation from Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD)

Join UUs from throughout Maryland, elected officials, and advocates to celebrate the November 6 victories on marriage equality and the DREAM Act and recognize some of those who helped make these victories possible.

To register, submit \$15 for the Celebration Meeting; \$25 for Annual Membership, or \$35 for both by:

- * Making an online credit card or electronic bank draft donation at www.parishpay.com. Enter "Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis" (our fiscal agent); then click on "Enroll to Give." Enter your registration fee, membership fee or combination of the two in the box designated for a "One Time Donation" to UULM-MD. You may also make a recurring monthly donation to UULM-MD at this same page.
- * Sending a check made out to the UU Church of Annapolis with UULM-MD on the memo line and mail it to UULM-MD, c/o UU Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD, 21401.
- * Calling us at **410-266-8044, ext, 111** and our Coordinator, Margery Knight, will return your call to accept your credit card or bank draft information.

All contributions to UULM-MD are tax-deductible.

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Come Celebrate with Us!

**UULM-MD Celebration of Victories on
Questions 4 and 6**

and Organizing for the 2013 Legislative Session

Saturday, January 12, 2013

8:30 am-1:30 pm

**UU Church of Annapolis
333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD, 21401**

Directions: www.uuca-md.org

TWedHUULK Going to Tara Thai Again

We will be back in the Hyattsville Art District on Wednesday, January 16 at 1:00 pm. This beautifully designed space has a very long menu and reasonable process. It is on Baltimore Ave. (Rt. One) across the street from Bus Boys and Poets, just north of the branching with Rhode Island Ave. If you need a ride or can give a ride to someone please contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or at 301-345-1572.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

UPDATE: Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation Scholarship Fundraiser

Paint Branchers Nancy Boardman,
Lowell and Marge Owens, and Carol

Carter Walker attended the December 1 Annual Scholarship Fundraiser for an endowed scholarship at Bowie State University.



Bowie State is the institution where Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation set up a scholarship to honor Reverend Don Speed Smith Goodloe, after whom the congregation was renamed in 2004. Rev. Goodloe was the first principal of the Maryland Normal and Industrial School, now Bowie State University, from 1911-1921 and the first African American graduate of Meadville Theological School, now Meadville-Lombard, a Unitarian Universalist seminary. The keynote speaker was Dr. Mickey Burnim, President of Bowie State University.

If you would like to make a contribution to this scholarship, you may send checks to Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation, with Bowie State Scholarship in the memo line.

Submitted by Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair, DARRT

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DARRT (continued)

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team Offers A Covenant Group Using The Anti-Racist Cookbook

We all need more practice in learning how to talk about race and ethnicity. Tricia Most and Carol Carter Walker, DARTT Co-Chairs, will facilitate a six-session Covenant Group using an excellent resource: *The Anti-Racist Cookbook: A Recipe Guide For Conversations About Race That Goes Beyond Covered Dishes and Kum-Bah-Ya* by Robin Parker and Pamela Smith Chambers.

Members are asked to commit to attending all six sessions, the first of which will begin with a simple lunch at noon on Monday, February 18, 2013 (Washington's Birthday Holiday). At that first gathering, the group will decide on meeting times that are convenient to all members. This six session primer on discussing race will be a helpful precursor to a future group reading of Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." For more information or to register for the Anti-Racist Covenant Group, email DARTT@PBUUC.org or talk to Tricia Most [301-452-1366](tel:301-452-1366) or Carol Carter Walker [202-636-8138](tel:202-636-8138).

Submitted by Tricia Most, Co-Chair, DARRT

Site Improvement Committee (SIC)

The Site Improvement Committee (SIC) invites you to the third presentation with Tina Schneider (Landscape Architect and Ecologist). She will present one site plan incorporating your ideas and feedback since our last meeting in November 2012. Joining Tina will be Bill Hutchins of Helicon Works Architecture Firm. Bill will present a schematic of the building structures, including the deck. This meeting will join the two aspects of Buildings and Grounds for the overall Site Plan. We will talk about the deck and how it will connect to the Parking lot, so please don't miss this opportunity to hear first hand from Tina and Bill and provide your feedback! Light food options will be served. The event will happen after church on Sunday, February 17 from 11:45-1:45.

Your feedback is critical in finalizing the Site Plan, you can go to www.pbuuc.org/sic and select the survey link until **January 10, 2013**.

Submitted by Karine Bouis-Towe, SIC Coordinator

Denominational Affairs Committee



The **Denominational Affairs Committee** helps to connect our congregation with the wider Unitarian Universalist universe. This is a brief summary of those connecting structures. Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church (PBUUC) is a member of the:

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), a voluntary association of 1,100 congregations in the United States. (There are also UU communities in Africa, Asia, Canada and Mexico.) The UUA is headquartered in Boston and has a paid staff headed by an elected President, Board of Trustees, and Moderator. These officials are elected by delegates to the annual General Assembly (GA). Congregations vote to elect delegates to GA.

Central East Regional Group (CERG), a cooperative of four geographically contiguous districts of the UUA who share resources and staff to better serve congregations. The four CERG Districts are: Joseph Priestley, Metro-NY, Ohio-Meadville, and Saint Lawrence.

Joseph Priestley District comprised of 70 congregations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

A variety of services and resources are delivered to member congregations through both CERG and JPD.

Chesapeake Regional Growth Group, a cluster of congregations in the Baltimore-Washington-Northern Virginia Area focused on growing Unitarian Universalism in this area.

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, a membership organization of congregations and individuals in the Baltimore-Washington-Northern Virginia area that helps Unitarian Universalist activists carry out their social and economic justice agendas. (The Paint Branch Social Action Committee Chair represents Paint Branch on the UUSJ Board.)

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Denominational Affairs Committee continued

The UUA is the conduit through which congregations and individuals can witness and advocate for important social justice issues.

This is accomplished through the process of individuals in congregations nominating, voting on and commenting on Statements of Conscience from their inception as Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues—a four year process.

Active participation from congregations in these deliberations is required. An issue cannot be placed on the General Assembly Agenda without at least 25 % of congregations participating. Delegates to the Annual General Assembly (both on and off-site) can vote on these issues. Delegates are elected by their congregations.

There are two issues that currently require input from Paint Branch to the UUA:

1. Immigration as a Moral Issue (Draft Statement of Conscience). The full draft is available at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/152647.shtml> and in hard copy in the Meeting House Foyer. Paint Branch's comments must be received at the UUA by **Friday, February 1.**

2. Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling (Congregational Study/ Action Issue for 2012-2016). The initial statement on this issue is available at <http://www.uua.org/reproductive/calling/209024.shtml> and in hard copy in the Meeting House Foyer. Paint Branch's comments must be received at the UUA by **Friday, March 1.**

We've got some work to do to let our voices be heard.

Please plan to attend a Denominational Affairs Committee meeting hosted by Trustee and Acting Chair Don Gerson, **on Sunday, January 6 during Enrichment Hour.**

At that meeting, we will develop unified comments on these issues, talk about the upcoming District and UUA Annual Meetings and provide an update on other activities in the wider UU universe.

Submitted by Carol Carter Walker

In and Around Paint Branch**MEET THE GUEST PREACHER**

On January 27, we will welcome to our pulpit Reverend John T. Crestwell, Jr. He is the Associate Minister at the UU Church of Annapolis MD, where he is launching AWAKE Ministries in the next few months. He is the former minister of Davies Memorial UU Church in Camp Springs, Maryland.

He currently serves as a member of the UUA President's Council, and on the National Cancer Institute Institutional Review Board (IRB) under the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Prior to ministry, Rev. John worked in marketing and advertising. He received a BA in Mass Media Arts from Hampton University and a Masters in Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He is committed to working for the marginalized and oppressed and is a self-proclaimed UU Evangelist. Rev. Crestwell was the Sunday Morning Worship leader for the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona.

ART HAPPENINGS

During the beginning of January we will continue to enjoy Doug Bolt's photographs.



In mid-January our exhibit space will be filled with a sampling of work by Peggy Zee who is a print maker. She has worked in many different media, mainly silk screen, etching and woodcuts. She has also done handmade paper with drawings in pen and ink, and crayon.

She graduated from Arkansas University majoring in art. She has exhibited her work in galleries in Georgetown in the District and in Bethesda, Maryland. She has also worked as a teacher, a professional framer and even sold art supplies.

She is currently a resident at Riderwood and since she moved in she has been working on a smaller scale with fiber art and digital images. Her most recent work is small wood sculpture. Be prepared for a visual feast.

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In and Around Paint Branch continued



Paint Branch Artists Awake!

The Visual Arts Committee is planning to have an exhibit of art by Paint Branchers. If you've ever had a desire to have your work on display now is the time to put your New Year's resolution into action, stir your creative juices and get to work.

You have a little time to create your masterpiece because this show will be starting in early May. If you have questions you may ask Jane Trout at [301-572-2898](tel:301-572-2898).

Submitted by Jane Trout, Visual Arts Committee



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Murray Grove News Update

Supporting Hurricane Sandy Volunteers. Thanks to the CERG Sandy Relief Fund, Murray Grove is offering reduced fee lodging for volunteer groups working on the Jersey Shore. Open year round, we are accommodating groups on a space available basis (between the retreats already booked). Contact us for more information. Call [609-693-5558](tel:609-693-5558) for availability or visit www.murraygrove.org.

The Dreaming Mind and Our Collective Journey Toward Wholeness: Intensive Dream Work led by the internationally known Rev. Jeremy Taylor, UU minister and honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology from Starr King School for the Ministry. May 31-June 2, 2013.

Heritage Week at Murray Grove, July 7-11, 2013 - Workshops conducted by Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Strong, 2010 winner of the Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education, and Mr. Barb Greve, Master level Credentialed Religious Educator on Universalist, Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist Religious Education History and General History. Attendance at Heritage Week will qualify as a structured learning experience for the "Philosophy of RE - UU" competency, and as a significant structured learning experience for the credentialed level.

Drum and Dance Fest - July 19-21, 2013: Express yourself creatively and spiritually! All levels welcome! LEARN Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming; African,



Belly and Hoop Dancing; plus Drum/Dance Jams, Facilitator Performances. Drum around our fire circle.

Camping in the Grove! August 4-8, 2013: 5 days of fun-filled summer adventure for UU children and their

friends in 3rd through 6th grade. If you love games, art, swimming, music, nature and bonfires, our camping experience, where Universalism traditionally began, is just for you!

Register now!



Ageing Well to the End: A Workshop First Session: Sunday, January 13 from 11:45 am to 1:30pm

That's a long time! Bring a snack! How can people prepare for aging, related disability, and care-giving? We will focus on the capacities, rather than the deficits, of older adults, and how to find balance, joy, and purpose in the challenging role of caregiver. You will learn about living wills, health care and financial powers of attorney, and how to communicate about one's wishes with family and others involved.

Led by Deb Rubenstein, Paint Branch UU Church member and former Pastoral Care Associate who is a clinical social worker and attorney with eighteen years of experience working with older adults and caregivers, with Rev. Diane.

PAID POSITION OPENING

PBUUC currently has an opening for a Building Manager. The Building Manager has custodial, sound system and customer relations duties, and is responsible for opening and closing the Meeting House and the Religious Exploration building on Sundays on a rotating basis.

The Building Manager must also be available to work rental events. If you or someone you know is interested in the part-time position, please contact the Church Administrator at churchadmin@pbuuc.org.



Spirit of Life Center

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

Spirit of Life Center is the place for the neighborhood community to come together to experience, learn and enjoy simple activities through a variety of classes and workshops. Join us to explore and grow your own spirituality, health, and community through an open and accepting environment of friends.

Chakra Ta'i Chi Class with Seva Stress Release: by Lynn Johnson. 1st and 3rd Saturday. 9:30 am-10:30 am. Chakra Ta'i Chi is a gentle yet powerful centering series of movements created by Aminah Raheem and based on Ta'i Chi Chuan. It is designed to open the chakras, the energy centers of the body, and to align the soul, body, emotions and mind. Chakra Ta'i Chi is stress reducing and calming. The class will begin with the Seva Stress Release acupressure protocol of Soul Lightening International for deep relaxation. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)

Meditation Workshop: by Raman Pathik. 2nd and 4th Saturday. 9:30am-11:00am. Breath as a guide. Another way of looking at your breath is as a spiritual light house to guide you back to the present moment. The goal of meditation is to allow you to spend as much of your life in the present as possible, instead of the future or the past; staying on the path of the now is the road that leads to happiness. (Suggested donation \$5.00 requested)

Laughter Yoga-mix Class: by Tina McCloud. Saturday 9:30am-10:30am. 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. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)

Zumba Class: by Shawna Webster. Saturday 11:00am-12:00pm. An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning class that's moving millions of people toward joy and health. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)

Quality of Life Workshop: by Raman Pathik. Saturday 11:00 am-12:30 pm. 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. (Suggested donation \$5.00)

Simplicity Circle Workshop: by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute. TBD

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) (Suggested donation \$5.00 requested)

Dancing Within Class: by Sharon Werth. Thursday 6:30 pm-7:30pm. The Dancer in You! Discover the movement that is in your body. Let the dance of your inner spirit out! No experience necessary. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)



PBUUC Leadership Directory

☞ Staff ☞

Please contact the Church Office at [301-937-3666](tel:301-937-3666) for Staff listed.

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert
Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director, Religious Exploration	Erica Shadowsong
Religious Exploration Assistant	Eriall A. Steiner
Church Administrator	Chuck Bury
Administrative Assistant	
Bookkeeper	Debra McCann
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:	
	Jesse Crowley
	Eric Welkos
Child Care:	Beth Judy
	Marina Miguel

☞ Officers and Board of Trustees ☞

Chair	Michel Léger
Vice chair	Don Gerson
Vice chair	Charles Towe
Trustee	Don Henderson
Trustee	Mark Shute
Trustee	Evangeline Wells
Trustee	Alice Tyler
Trustee	Don Mitchell
Trustee	Vacant
Secretary	Melody Lawrence
Treasurer	Marcie Washburn
Asst. Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

☞ Pastoral Care Associates ☞

Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

☞ We Care Coordinators ☞

Esther Nichols
Jeri Holloway
Allison Hughes
Gloria "Genie" Van Pelt

☞ Worship Associates ☞

Claire Boston (2011-12)
Celinda Marsh (2011-14)
Jonathan Mawdsley (2012-15)
Montana Monardes (2012-15)
Ken Redd (2011-14)
John Sebastian (2010-13)
Carol Carter Walker (2010-13)
Bettie Young (2012-15)

☞ Committees ☞

Adult Religious Education	Michel Léger *
Arts Council	Pat Tompkins
Budget Leadership Team	Mark Shute
Buildings & Grounds	Lee Dudek
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most
	Carol Carter Walker
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson *
Finance	Shantida
Green Team	Penny O'Brien
	Will Snyder
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Leasing Team	Church Office
Membership	Polly Pettit
Ministry	Wendy Schlegel
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration (Co-chair)	Tabitha Pierzchala
Site Improvement	Matt Elliott
Social Action	Karine Bouis-Towe
Spirit of Life Center	Nancy Boardman
Stewardship	Raman Pathik
Visual Arts	Sherry Mitchell
*Temporary	Jane Trout

☞ Groups and Activities ☞

Archivist	Rebecca Birnie
Auction	Carol Carter Walker
Bookstore	Carol Carter Walker
Bridge	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Charles Towe
Community Café	Esther Nichols
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl
Facebook Page	Ken Montville
Handcraft Circle	Marj Donn
Head & Heart History	Kweli Powell
Listserv	Ken Montville
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield
Mediation Program	David Haberman
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Moms of Young Ones	Renée Katz
Nature Spirituality Circle	Tabitha Pierzchala
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrte Rooker
Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik
SINKS and DINKS	Kathy Kearns
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Tricia Most
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Women's Retreat	Wendy Schlegel