



# BRANCHES



**PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

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

**June 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.*

**June 2**

**Our Six Sources, Musically: The Annual Choir Service**

*The PBUUC Choir with The Great Noise Ensemble, and Michael Holmes, Guest Conductor*

*David Chapman, Music Director and pianist*

*with Rev. Diane Teichert and Celinda Marsh, Worship Associate*

Our choir and the small orchestra will perform "Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata," music by Jason Shelton, words by Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons. It features varied musical genres with story, spoken word and congregational singing. New-comers 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 RE Building.

**June 9**

**Exploring: The Year in our Religious Exploration Program**

*Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration, and Rev. Diane Teichert*

*with John Sebastian, Worship Associate, and musical children!*

From cultural traditions and high holidays to the six sources of our UU faith, our children and youth will share "mementos" of the wisdom they have gained with you! We will celebrate our volunteers and experience an exciting preview of the year to come. The Special Collection will be for the Friends of Northwestern High School Choirs (see page 7). The Annual Congregational Meeting will begin after the service, with refreshments and children's activities – all are invited!

**June 16**

**A Day in the Life: the Annual Youth-led Service**

*The PBUUC Youth Group, with Montana Monardes, Worship Associate*

A day in the life of a PBUUC teenager... in their own words, music, dance, and drama. This is also Signing Sunday, a monthly opportunity to sign the Membership Book for those who have made PBUUC their spiritual home. Children's Worship with Erica after the Singaway Song for the younger children. After the service stay for a farewell party for our RE staff who are leaving this summer.

**June 23**

**Years in Our Lives, Life in Our Years**

*Deb Rubenstein, Worship Leader, with Bettie Young, Worship Associate*

Growing older brings opportunities for wisdom and growth, as well as the vulnerability that comes with aging bodies, minds and spirits. Let's explore the meaning of growing older for ourselves, our community, and our congregation. This is the first Summer Service of the year, with Summer Fun for children, with youth assisting, after the Singaway Song.

**June 30**

**The Race Card Project**

*Janet Overton, Worship Leader, with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate*

This service is based on The Race Card Project—a National Public Radio-endorsed collection of thousands of individuals' thoughts on race. The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team has invited several members and friends to develop cards of their own and share their words, and, what inspired them. See page 8 for more information about how you can participate. Summer Fun for children, with youth assisting, after the Singaway Song.

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## 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 of Religious Exploration	Erica Shadwosong
Religious Exploration Assistant	Eriall A. Steiner
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Allie Miraglia
Bookkeeper	Debra McCann
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Jesse Crowley
Child Care Providers:	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	Mary Dancy
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 ☞

Celinda Marsh (2011-14)  
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 RE	Michel Léger (temporary)
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 (temporary)
Finance	Shantida
Green Team (co-chairs)	Penny O'Brien & Will Snyder
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Leasing Team	Church Office
Membership	Polly Pettit
Ministry	John Bartoli
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration (co-chairs)	Tabitha Pierzchala & Matt Elliott
Site Improvement	Karine Bouis-Towe
Social Action	Nancy Boardman
Spirit of Life Center	Raman Pathik
Stewardship	Sherry Mitchell
Visual Arts	Jane Trout

### ☞ Groups and Activities ☞

Archivist	Rebecca Birnie
Auction	Mark Shute
Bookstore	Carol Carter Walker
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Charles Towe
Community Café	Esther Nichols
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Gift Card Sales	John Bartoli
Handcraft Circle	Marj Donn
Head & Heart History	Kweli Powell
Listserv & Facebook Group	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 Tyrtle 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 Group/Women's Retreat	Wendy Schlegel

## The Minister's mUUsings...

Sometimes it seems that Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church thinks of itself as a mere stepchild of Rev. A. Powell Davies\*, not one of the real offspring. We should get over it!

One of my early impressions of the PBUUC congregation was that it didn't think very highly of itself. I couldn't quite understand why. It has beautiful buildings in a lovely setting, really good people, strong religious education for children and adults, a vibrant commitment to social and racial justice and the environment from its inception, with fine-enough ministers, and high quality music, dance and art that enliven. However, over time I came to understand that the parking lot eyesore, with its related environmental damage, and the never-ending maintenance demands of the deck, sap the congregation's confidence and energy. These challenges are spiritual sinkholes, and have caused resentments. They drag us down, and seem to keep us from being what and who we want to be. Not any more!

We are turning a corner. There is a new lightness of being around here. The reasons why are a complex mix of intention, opportunity, serendipity and patience. There is the intention of the Board of Trustees, evolving over the past four years, to practice leading with grace, which may be why a visitor to the May meeting was heard to observe with surprise at its (latest ever) end something like, "that was a congenial meeting!" There is the opportunity created by new members with—for example—new energy and vision for site improvements, including the parking lot. There is the serendipity of a gift from a long-time member large enough to fund the repair of the deck and the patient resolve of another long-time member to oversee the details of that repair. And those are just a few examples of the intention, opportunity, serendipity and patience that are floating our boat.

Of course, there are also setbacks. For example, by now you have heard that Director of Religious Exploration Erica Shadwosong accepted a full-time DRE position at the UU Church of Arlington VA to start in August. Our continual staff turnover is extremely wearing – we cannot gain any traction in creating a coherent staff team and are forever training

someone new instead of moving forward collectively toward the vision of a spirited multigenerational, multicultural congregation committed to earth, racial and social justice.

I suppose it is the role of a spiritual leader to lift up hope, rather than to dwell on the setbacks, tensions and shortcomings. Believe me, I have been weighed down by the latter this year. But, I really do see signs of hope! Among them are financial signs. Our Stewardship Drive was successful, when nearby UU congregations are considering furloughs or cutbacks. We have had a tenant since September (and they plan to renew their lease!) with another starting now on a trial basis, so we see an end to the austerity measures necessary after we courageously did not renew the lease of our former long-term tenant. We received substantial gifts from more than one member and healthy pledges, including from new members – thank you, one and all!

As the "church year" draws to a close on June 16 and we embark on our high quality, mostly lay-led Summer Services and Summer Fun on Sunday mornings and a reduced meeting-schedule during the week, and I take most of the Study Leave and Vacation granted to me (thank you!), and as the deck is repaired... I hope you feel, as I do, that PBUUC is turning a corner, with a new lightness of being, and good reason to be ever more hopeful!

Hoping to see you on Sundays,

*Diane*

\*A. Powell Davies was the minister of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington D.C. from 1944 to his death in 1957, during which time the church seeded seven suburban congregations in Maryland and Virginia. One of them was the College Park Unitarian Center, which began meeting in 1954 on the University of Maryland campus, and re-named itself when it moved to our present location in Adelphi in 1965 – "Paint Branch" after the tributary of the Anacostia River that links both locations and "Universalist" because the two denominations had merged in 1961. Of the seven congregations, PBUUC is the sixth in membership size (Davies Memorial in Camp Springs, MD is smaller).

## Wheel of Life

### We rejoice with...

- ☀ The Monardes family - son Montana was inducted into the Thespian Honor Society and the National Honor Society at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and also one of his videos won the Grand Prize of the Prince George's County Film Contest!
- ☀ And with Lynn Johnson who is also home from the hospital and feeling much better.
- ☀ And the Myrdon-Ward family because Miles' hospitalization ended with full recovery from his respiratory problems, even though no cause was identified.

Finally, we miss Mary Dancy, who is taking a leave of absence from the Board and other church involvements, and send our thoughts, hopes and prayers her way!

**The We Care Coordinator for June is Esther Nichols.** If you or a congregant you know is in need of (or can provide) rides, meals, cards or visits to another congregant, please contact her at **301-864-2068**. (continued on next page)



*Wheel of Life* continued...

### Pastoral Care in the Summer Months:

Rev. Teichert will be out of town at the Minister's Annual Meeting and General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, this year in Louisville KY, from June 17 through 24 and then on Study Leave, followed by Vacation from July 13, until August 5. During those weeks, please contact a Pastoral Care Associate if you or a loved one face an emergency calling for pastoral care; they can call upon the UU minister on-call as needed. They are Jeri Holloway, Lynn Johnson, Mike McMenamin, and Will Snyder; their contact information can be found in the PBUUC Member and Friend Directory or from the office, 301-937-3666 or churchadmin@pbuuc.org.

## Religious Exploration

Dear wonderful, warm and beautiful PBUUC family,

By now you've heard the bittersweet news that I will be leaving you this year after all. You've probably heard that I have been fortunate enough to be offered a full-time position at another local UU church, and will be continuing the career path I first began unexpectedly with you as a Unitarian Universalist religious education professional. As I have told the minister in one of our meetings in May, I feel acutely aware of a huge debt of gratitude to this congregation for the path it put me on and the support in professional development it offered.

It is hard to say goodbye. Even though the change is, very honestly, a necessary one for my family and I at this stage in my life, and I would be lying if I pretended not to be looking forward to it, change is almost always painful and unsettling even when it is positive. In many ways, I feel that PBUUC is my church home, if I were to have one. I will always speak fondly of this place, and when sufficient time has passed for it to be appropriate, I look forward to visiting you all again! You have also probably heard that our newly hired RE Assistant, Eriall Steiner, is similarly moving on to other life goals, but you should be proud to know that she has, in her short time here, developed a similar sense of loyalty and warmth for your community, and hopes to be in touch!

All right, enough sentimentality! With my last column, I do have something I'd like to say to you.

There's a lot of work to do yet in RE at PBUUC. It's not that no one's doing it, or that the RE program isn't already on a very positive growth and development track; it's that it is on that track, and it's going to need even more initiative and involvement from the larger PBUUC community to use the momentum to carry the changes forward healthily.

The RE Committee has successfully petitioned for and won a Legacy Fund grant to launch Spirit Play next year in the pre-school/toddler and elementary classes. Spirit Play has a lot to offer this congregation, if done well, and it's going to need people willing to put in a little time to become familiar with it. It's going to ask some volunteers to stretch themselves by committing to trying the classroom management styles that are built into it. It's going to need some support and encouragement from parents who wish to see their children get the most out of Sunday RE, and that means bringing them consistently.

We are also at a critical point with both our middle school and high school youth. The middle school has the opportunity to explore Neighboring Faiths next year, and though it will be a small class, they will need some people who can look themselves in the mirror and say over and over again, "I am not afraid of teens... I am not afraid of teens...!" On a more serious note, what I'm trying to say is that your youth need a commitment

from the adults in this congregation to get to know them. Don't be afraid of commitment, of doing it wrong, of teaching, of being out of touch for however many years. Commit to know these youth. You will not be sorry; I know it.

I say the same for the high school youth, who will most likely be looking for one to two new advisors to help guide them through the year. The youth group is ready for a higher level of involvement, particularly in the areas of social action, and they will need people not only passionate about social action, but passionate enough to patiently take the time to be mentors to those for whom it is still very much a learning experience. They will need people willing to explore worship with them on Sundays, to help the Sunday experience be just as meaningful as the projects and special events for which our youth are so wonderfully motivated. Get to know them. Please. Know your youth. Don't let yourselves be guilty of seeing them as a homogenous clump, as so many adults in their lives do. Have the courage to let them get to know you, because you have much to offer! The causes which you care so deeply about and the work you do will need their energy, and they, with the energy they possess for action and change, will need your sense of direction and ability to identify steps toward a goal over the long-term.

Finally, the RE Committee itself will be transitioning as two members, one a chair of three years, will be going off. RE Committee members are encouraged not to teach while they serve on the committee, so the RE Committee will benefit strongly from people who are great at both long-term vision and short-term action. Even if you are not otherwise involved in the RE program for children and youth, chances are you have something to offer simply by being a sitting member of this committee. If you haven't yet, I might be going out on a limb but I'm going to say it's probably time! RE isn't going away, and is as critical a part of the lifeblood of PBUUC as any other sphere of action. Don't be afraid; step up! Let some of those who have been serving for a long time have a chance to get involved in other aspects of church life. Let this be a place of reprieve and revitalization for our families, and not one of fatigue.

I know that's a tough call, with all that you already do, but I think you will find it easier than you expect, if you take up the challenge. I'm so excited to see what the growth will look like in a couple of years, and I hope, as you have done with me, I have left your community better for having been here with you. I heartily invite you to stay in contact to the extent that you would like, and hope I may do the same.

Gratefully yours,

*Erica Shadowson*

Director of Religious Exploration



## Board of Trustees Column

### The Board Beat, June 2013:

Hello Paint Branch:

Well, this is it: my last Board Beat Column. I have enjoyed the challenge of writing “the Board Beat” — the discipline of a monthly deadline, and of a monthly review of Board of Trustees (BOT) progress on the goals we set for the year and of BOT progress on conducting the business of the Church as that has arisen over the course of the year.

I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the three years I have sat in the circle of the Board, and to thank the Church for this unique opportunity I have been given to serve the Church that is my spiritual home.

When I was FIRST asked to serve on the BOT, in 2009, I declined because I was just finishing serving the Church in other ways that were important and challenging. So I answered with my Sacred “No,” even before I had read Erik Wikstrom’s discussion about the spiritual values attached to this. I said to the Nominating Committee chair at the time that I would be open to being asked again a year from then. So when I was asked again in 2010, I said yes. I confess it was not with a very clear notion of what I was agreeing to, and not with very good grace.

From the beginning, then, I have had on my radar screen the INTERNAL as well as the EXTERNAL observation that Board service, and more generally, Committee Service and service to the Church, is considered a burden rather than an opportunity. I have always felt there was something skewed and unhelpful about this, and have intentionally sought to shift this, again, INSIDE MYSELF and OUT THERE, in the culture of Paint Branch Leadership.

What I can report to you all, NOW, from my experience, is that when I FAIL to have a clear sense of who I am, what I am capable of (and what the LIMITS of my capacities are), and of what I LOVE, THEN I extend myself too far, feel the pressures of burnout and feel that service is a burden, and want to run and hide from the responsibilities I have taken on.

CONVERSELY: when I know who I am, what I love, what I am capable of, and where my limitations are, THEN I make choices to take on manageable tasks, manageable PORTIONS of work, to find others who are MORE able to take on tasks that are beyond my capacities of ability, interest, and time, and to LET GO of MY delusions that I can do it all.

I am speaking of my OWN experiences. AND as they say, if the shoe fits....

All of which is to say:

THANK YOU, Paint Branch, for the opportunity to serve the Church as a Member of the Board of Trustees, and for this past year, as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. It has been an extraordinary joy as well as a challenge! I have learned so much more about who I am as a man, what my capacities are as a leader, and where my limitations and boundaries lie, than I knew in July 2010.

It has been an extraordinarily BUSY three years! (Yes, I know, ALL Board Members and Chairs think that THEIR years have been the busiest years on the Board). But here is what I see of the path behind, and the path ahead:

Under the leadership of the 2010-2013 Boards, PBUUC has:

- ⇒ Transitioned away from the occupation of our RE Building by the Montessori School to a more RE-friendly atmosphere, AND welcomed the Home-Schooling Cooperative Oshixay as a step toward a fully satisfying AND lucrative sharing of our space with mission-consistent renters.
- ⇒ Formalized and supported the processes of Committee formation and leadership transmission within committees by supporting and disseminating the charter template.
- ⇒ Intentionally sought the means for understanding and expanding leadership and leadership structures throughout the church by using a common reading (Serving With Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice) and implementing its suggestions in conducting BOT business.
- ⇒ Implemented Intentional Multicultural strategies to continue constructing a mosaic of life at PBUUC that more fully embodies our commitment to Unitarian Universalist Principles. The BOT has included Multiculturalism-awareness training activities in its Retreats, supported SAC and DARTT initiatives financially and through public declarations, and held special discussions during BOT meetings to continue deepening our communal understanding and commitment to Intentional Multiculturalism.
- ⇒ Begun the process of embodying the ideas PBUUC has birthed, through many years and many visioning processes, of stewarding our land and our physical plant in ways that will adhere to our Seventh Principle and that will invite increased membership and smooth the flow of people around the site, from parking lot through the buildings to the glen, a memorial garden, the playground—eliminating most or all of the venerable deck (how’s that for a euphemism for “albatross”?).
- ⇒ Reinvigorated membership-development efforts by constituting and launching a new Membership Development entity (the Member Matrix).
- ⇒ Supported the creation and launch of the Spirit of Life Community Center.
- ⇒ Supported broadening the scope of Ministry at PBUUC by supporting the Committee on Ministry’s inquiry into how “ministry” as a concept inspires and drives the work of committees and affinity groups throughout PBUUC.
- ⇒ Supported and sustained the Music program at Paint Branch during the medical leave of our Music Director David Chapman.
- ⇒ Advocated the reinvigoration of PBUUC’s Adult Religious Exploration program.
- ⇒ Advocated the retention and fair remuneration of professional leaders in the areas of Religious Exploration, Music and Liturgical Dance, and Administration at PBUUC.

(continued on next page)

**The Board Beat**, continued...

ALL of these efforts will require sustained effort, and themselves will offer a partial roadmap for what in my judgment should be the immediate future of PBUUC. AND there are other dreams and visions that future leaders will bring to the center of Paint Branch's field of focus.

What are YOUR dreams and visions for Paint Branch? For it is to YOU I am speaking, not primarily to the next BOT. YOU are the leaders of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. What will you find out about yourselves: about who you ARE, what YOU love, where YOUR gifts and challenges and limits lie, how you can use them to sustain the life of this beloved community, how you can do YOUR part (and ONLY your part) for the community you love?

NOW would be an excellent time for those who are curious about and/or interested in the experience of serving on the Board of Trustees to ask any of us on the Board about OUR experiences and about the work and workings of the Board of Trustees, and to visit us during a Board of Trustees meeting. Here's how you can do that:

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, Don Mitchell, and Mary Dancy, I wish you all the excitement, challenge and joy of Summer and of the next Church Year and of discerning your own path to leadership in your own life!

And from my heart I thank all those listed above, and Reverend Diane Teichert, Bettie Young, Susannah Schiller, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Melody Lawrence, Marcie Washburn, Marilyn Pearl, Mike Stark, Tim Illig and Anita Wagner-Illig, for a FANTASTIC three years!

*Michel Léger.*

2012-2013 BOT Chair

**Social Action Committee (SAC) News**

**Tutoring/Mentoring Program Awarded Paint Branch Legacy Fund Grant.** At last year's annual meeting the congregation supported the Social Action Committee's (SAC's) community outreach expansion of offering a tutoring mentoring program for families and organizations in our area at our own church. On May 22, 2013 the Board of Trustees approved the Legacy Fund Committee's allocation of \$1,750 for implementation of this important community outreach proposal from SAC. Carmelita Carter-Sykes is the program coordinator and has worked with other Paint Branchers over the past year to plan and move forward with beginning implementation of this effort. Now with this Legacy Fund Grant announced progress can move forward more rapidly! During last summer a planning committee began by assessing the need, defining the mission, goals, and objectives for a traditional tutoring program based on a survey of content our PBUUC members and friends were willing to offer. As they worked towards creating community partnerships with CASA de Maryland and others they became aware what was planned might not be in sync with the community needs. So at the fall Social Action, Racial, and Earth Justice Kick-Off they decided to refocus their efforts towards helping our immigrant neighbors be successful in accomplishing their goal of achieving citizenship. Paint Branchers could offer improved knowledge of English and the workings of the US government without a lot of content training. So we started working toward being in more community with CASA de Maryland by volunteering in their programs and initiatives. Our coordinator, Carmelita Carter-Sykes was able to attend workshops and meet others who are working in the area of English as a Second Language (ESL) and adult literacy. And now with approval of this Legacy Fund Grant funds will be available for implementing the tutoring goal by adapting curricula, training our volunteers, publicizing, and starting up our tutoring program! Stay tuned for more details as planning takes place over the summer. We welcome the expanded involvement of Paint Branchers as we work toward living our UU values in the wider community by creating diverse respectful relationships, promoting racial and social justice, and by honoring the contribution of all toward the common good.

**Social Justice Survey**

A survey to help determine Paint Branch Social Justice priorities was sent electronically on May 10, with responses requested by May 21 and paper copies available on Sunday, May 19. Working together the Social Action Committee, Green Team, and Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team conducted this survey to learn what Paint Branchers think our congregation's social justice priorities should be for the coming church year and where members and friends are willing to volunteer their time. The survey has three sections – one for each team. The results are being reviewed by each team and will be presented at the annual meeting on June 9, 2013. Stay tuned! This is an important way for the three teams to better understand what Paint Branchers believe each team's social justice priorities should be. The presentations will be important ones at our annual meeting!

*Submitted by Nancy Boardman  
Chair, Social Action Committee*

## June Special Collections Update

**Special Collection on June 9, to Help the Northwestern High School Choirs Cover Expenses for Their Summer Trip to South Africa.** This nearby choral program in Hyattsville was the only high school choir selected to represent the United States in the “Ihloambe Choral Festival” throughout South Africa in July 2013. And it is through area-wide donations such as ours that this outstanding high school choral group has been able to afford this once in a lifetime experience! We are honored their director, Leona Lowery Fitzhugh, will join us at our June 9 Sunday service to speak briefly about their choral program and its upcoming trip. As an early alert, special collection checks should be made out to “Friends of Northwestern Choirs.” Thank you so much for supporting these very talented young singers! Contact Nancy Boardman, SAC Chair, for more information. (301-982-3450 or [sac@pbuuc.org](mailto:sac@pbuuc.org).)

*Submitted by Nancy Boardman*

**Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:**  
Saturday, June 16, from 10 am to noon  
in Room 1 of the RE Building

## Site Improvement Committee

Over the past year the Site Improvement Committee (SIC) has spent many hours meeting with county, state and regional agencies who offer opportunities to improve the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These agencies have a broad mandate, such as providing grants, taking responsibility for some of the improperly handled runoff from our neighboring roads and neighborhoods and provide support and guidance to property owners. Our partnership with these groups will make it possible to address the issues in and around our property that aren't our direct responsibility. The culmination of these meetings resulted in our first “All Hands” meeting where we brought everyone together to determine the next steps.

The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) identified the responsibility for Borneale Drive and the neighborhood off Borneale as a county focus. DER stated that they will submit our property and the abutting area as a potential project to receive funds from the PG County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) which will fund projects to mitigate/improve impervious runoff issues to meet improved water quality goals. The evaluation period will occur over the next nine months, results will be announced potentially by late 2014, improvements are estimated to be completed by 2018. In addition, DER identified Powder Mill Road and the service road run-off that is currently piped under our parking lot to be the State Highway Authority (SHA)'s responsibility and DER will provide a contact at SHA so we can begin working with them on a resolution. Finally, our own run-off from the parking lot and gravel area by the Borneale entrance is part of what we at PBUUC need to raise

awareness and funds to improve.

The survey results presented by the Board at the February 2013 Congregational Meeting showed our willingness to support these environmental improvements to our property and to pay for them. Our greatest impact will be had by redesigning our parking lot with storm water management facilities, including some pervious components while maintaining aesthetic beauty and handicapped accessibility.

The survey also showed that many congregants are confused about what we are proposing when we speak of the “Memorial Garden.” This will be a sacred place where ashes can be released in a ceremony or privately and where engraved memorial plaques will be placed from past members or existing. In addition, there was a strong desire to move the playground. We will continue down this path by engaging with the Board to begin a capital campaign to make all these improvements possible.

At the February meeting we also saw the first presentation from Architect Bill Hutchins, which is available on the PBUUC website. The feedback during the question and answer session was enlightening and in general we felt the proposal was well received and we gathered many questions from the audience that we have been researching and we will prepare another survey so we can better understand the will of the congregation on the proposed building improvements. If we determine that the buildings improvements are well supported we would include this in the Capital Campaign.

Some of the funds that Nancy Boardman donated to the SIC committee will be requested to pay Tina Schneider to work with the committee on the technical details required to submit a grant application to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT). This grant will provide “Design Funds” up to \$50,000 which will pay to hire an engineering firm to work with Tina to create the full site plan and run-off calculation that are required to properly design our storm water management systems. These CBT grant funds can be requested for multiple “projects” by PBUUC. We will look to this grant to pay design professionals as needed. Once we have a full plan completed, we can apply for additional funds through the DER “Natural Filters” program, these funds can be used for the implementation of storm water management facilities and the funds go up to \$1 million per project. We cannot consider these funds or be an applicant for them until we have the full design drawings completed. So our focus over the next year is to get these drawings in place, they will be the catalyst for the improvements we seek and the funding we need to address our storm water management issues and reduce our impact on our tributary and the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed. In addition we will continue to build support and listen to the congregation on the buildings and site improvements you all seek.

We are currently looking for volunteers to join the committee. Please contact Karine at 202-547-7053 or [ktowema@yahoo.com](mailto:ktowema@yahoo.com) or talk with one of the committee members (Lowell Owens, Marguerite Summers and Peter Wathen-Dunn (although he will be rolling off soon to work on the capital campaign).

## Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

### The New Jim Crow as a Social Justice 'Common Read' Project

The Unitarian Universalist Association chooses a 'Common Read' to encourage UUs to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. Books that are relevant to UUism are chosen to deepen our faith, to promote a shared sense of community, and to encourage follow-up action. The Common Read chosen for this church year is the book of legal scholar, civil rights advocate and attorney Michelle Alexander: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The *New Jim Crow* is about a present day form of racism. The author asserts the 'war on drugs' and the incarceration system intentionally and disproportionately affect Americans of color. In her extremely well-researched book, Alexander describes how employment, housing, voting rights and other forms of lifelong discrimination contribute to multifaceted disenfranchisement that affect people who are branded 'felon.' You can hear and/or read her presentation at the UUA's 2012 General Assembly and an interview with her at <http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/ga/200393.shtml>

At the April Joseph Priestley District Assembly held in Wilmington, District Executive Rev. Richard Speck led a workshop encouraging a specific reading and social justice plan that featured presenting the Jim Crow Project of Mother African Union Church and the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware. An essential element of this project is the partnering of a UU church with a predominantly Black Church. Rev. Speck offers himself as a resource for congregations interested in doing this work. The following recommendations from his workshop were shared at the May Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) meeting and are briefly summarized here. If Paint Branch chooses to embark on a Jim Crow Project, significant ministerial support and advocacy will be needed, not just to encourage the participation of Paint Branchers, but to identify clergy from a church of color in our surrounding community with whom we could partner in this reading and social justice project.

When White People engage in reading, discussing, and learning about the discriminatory experiences of People of Color, reactions of incredulity, denial, or the question, "Why didn't I know about this?" are not unusual. The difference in experiences, understanding and knowledge illuminates what it means to be White in America. In our society, there are things People of Color know and live that White people don't have to know, don't experience, and don't see. A critical aspect of this bi-denominational, bi-congregational project is the requirement that all participants prepare for each of the reading discussions by having completely read the pages assigned for that session's discussion. Each assigned section of Michelle Alexander's *Book: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* must be read thoroughly and completely before being discussed together to avoid false assumptions that lead to arguments and people dropping out of the project.

As the reading and discussion progresses, group members volunteer to research specific state laws that address specific legal issues. This needs to include finding out the history of efforts so far -- what has and has not been effective in the state of Maryland.

Having gathered information, the group needs to plan strategies and make decisions about prioritizing efforts for success. Each task must have sufficient devotees. For example, Delaware chose to work first on a "Ban the Box" movement to remove the question on job applications regarding previous conviction of a crime/felony which effectively disqualifies or severely limits employment opportunities for ex-cons.

Paint Branchers have the option of choosing the Jim Crow Project on the social justice survey and discussing it at the Annual Meeting on June 9 and/or emailing [DARTT@pbuuc.org](mailto:DARTT@pbuuc.org) for more information.

*submitted by Tricia Most, DARTT Co-Chair*

### In Six Words: "Race" and What It Means to Me

Think about race in terms of human social interactions. How would you distill your thoughts into one sentence that has only six words? Michele Norris, a host on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," started **The Race Card Project** in 2010 to foster a wider conversation about race. It began as postcards. People were asked to think about their "experiences, observations, triumphs, laments, or theories about race or cultural identity," then distill that thought into one six-word sentence, write that sentence on the postcard, and send it to Norris at NPR. The project has since grown into a rich and powerful Internet archive. Thousands of people from the US and around the world have submitted their thoughts on race in six-word sentence-essays at <http://theracecardproject.com/>.

The DARTT summer service for 2013, to take place on June 30, is based on The Race Card Project. We have invited several people to develop cards of their own, then share their words, and what inspired those words, with us during the service. DARTT is also asking the congregation to develop six-word essays on race and share them—with or without by-lines. From June 16 through June 23, there will be a box in the lobby where you can deposit your sentence/essays. On June 23, the box will be collected, then each of the six-word missives will be reproduced for display in the lobby on June 30.

Also on June 30, after the service, there will be an enrichment hour during which everyone is invited to share their words and participate in what we hope will be a broader conversation about race in our and in the wider community.

*submitted by Janet Overton*

**DARTT Next Monthly Meeting will be Tuesday, June 4** at 7:30 pm in Room 1, of the Religious Exploration Building. The major focus of the meeting is to create a safe space for members of the PBUUC community to talk about issues of race and ethnicity by personal sharing and by sponsoring services, events and activities designed to facilitate the congregation's implementation of its commitment to intentional multiculturalism. All are welcome.

## In and Around Paint Branch

### OBRIGADO!! THANK YOU FOR THE BRAZILIAN ETHNIC DINNER SUCCESS

Brazil had always been there, waiting her turn, hard to ignore –largest country in South America and one of few not colonized by Spain, in fact, the only Portuguese colony on that continent. Our Portuguese dinner in February 2004 was superlative in every way – the participation of over 50 Portuguese-Americans, giving us the highest attendance (close to 150) and highest income ever! It required everything we usually do for an Ethnic Dinner, multiplied by at least three. Superlative, yes; overwhelming, definitely! Maybe that was why we avoided Brazil. But, if there's one lesson 25 years and 62 dinners have taught us, it's that no country has a unique, homogeneous cuisine, and no country colonized by another, totally adopts the invaders' cuisine. Early research revealed what is unique about Brazil's cuisine is, while it uses foods from South America, Europe and Africa, it doesn't have many dishes from these three continents. Instead, it has combined those foods of diverse origins into new dishes, so fused, it is difficult to say which culture created them, or accurately trace their evolution. This was definitely worth looking into.

Thank you first to our newest cooks. Chris Evans said, "I cook," then proved it, making a large pot of delicious soup. Beth Charbonneau offered to help and didn't flinch when told it would be for more than 60 people. They and their spouses were attending their first Ethnic Dinner. Cooking also, but unable to attend, were Cara Snyder, Will & Lori's daughter who, having just returned from two years in Brazil, made two of our dishes, and a Brazilian friend of Alice Tyler's, Beth Cabido who made cheese bread for us.

When it appeared we'd have no one to set up except another first time couple, an appeal for help brought more volunteers. Thanks to Eric & Nicole Most, Keith Miller & his wife, Debra Street, Jeri Holloway, Will & Lori Snyder. Mike Stark did his usual stellar job of setting up, stocking and tending the bar with Sonja Meredith. Marcie Washburn tended the door. Cooks, in addition to those mentioned above, included Rene McDonald, Nancy Spande, Cathy Helmold, Penny O'Brien, Jane Trout, Marilyn Pearl, Tricia Most, Jeri Holloway, Teresa Meeks, Melody Lawrence, Alice Tyler, and Don & Sherry Mitchell who provided yerba maté, straws and instructions on how to drink it. Don Gerson took photos of everything. Joann Alexander and Richard Coté provided recorded Brazilian music.

Unfortunately we learned, due to a communications glitch, we had no building manager. An abundance of thanks go to all who performed above and beyond to get us past that obstacle. Honorable mention in that area goes to Richard Coté for getting the sound system operat-

ing and David Chapman for staying late to empty trash, mop the floor and lock up. Others helping to clean were Tina Van Pelt, Deron Lovaas, Beth Charbonneau, Lori & Will Snyder, Penny O'Brien, Sherry & Don Mitchell, Tricia, Eric & Nicole Most, Alice Tyler, Kate Brett, Nancy Boardman, Cathy Helmold, Marilyn Pearl, and Noel Monardes & Nancy Spande who stayed to the very end, running the dishwasher. There were in fact so many, I may have missed a few, including those who laundered tablecloths.

And of course, thank you to Muriel Morisey & Peter Wathen-Dunn who made a contribution despite not being able to attend, all the gracious cooks who waived reimbursement, and those folks who patronized the leftover sale. This dinner netted \$814.

The next dinner will be in October. No date or theme has yet been chosen. If you'd like to suggest either, contact Marilyn Pearl, 301-805-1218 or [buffalo\\_gal@verizon.net](mailto:buffalo_gal@verizon.net). At your request, I'll send you a list of all 62 dinners done so far.

*Submitted by Marilyn Pearl*

### The Telling: A Juneteenth Seder

Members and friends will gather in the Meeting House Saturday, June 15, to observe Juneteenth.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day on which the slaves of Galveston Island, Texas, first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been signed by President Abraham Lincoln and became effective on January 1, 1863. The day has been celebrated in Texas for more than one hundred years, but since the 1990's African Americans nationwide have observed the day.

A Juneteenth Seder is a ritual meal that takes as its model a Jewish Passover Seder. Stories, music, poetry, and first-person narratives will help us commemorate the journey of African Americans from slavery to emancipation. Everyone will be encouraged to participate. Tickets will be sold following Sunday worship services on June 2: Adults \$15, Children (5-15) \$5. For more information, contact Leo Jones at [s.leo.jones@gmail.com](mailto:s.leo.jones@gmail.com) or 301-776-1175.

### Teppanyaki Grill in Laurel, Wednesday, June 19, 1 pm

The Third Wednesday Handy UU Lunch Klub will return to this super-buffet. They have expanded their menu but kept their bargain prices at lunch time. There are Japanese, Chinese, Italian sections and seafood is a specialty. We met at this still-new restaurant once last year. It is located on Route 1 at 14150 Baltimore Ave. on the left as one drives north toward Laurel. It is among the many restaurants in that area but has a hard-to-miss sign.

If you need a ride or can offer a ride to someone please contact Marge Owens at [lowellandmarge@verizon.net](mailto:lowellandmarge@verizon.net) or 301-345-1572.



**In and Around Paint Branch ... continued****Take me out to the ball game!**

SINKs & DINKs is organizing a multigenerational, all-ages outing to Nationals Park on July 6 to see the Washington Nationals play the San Diego Padres. The game begins at 4:05 pm. Thirty slots are available,

with each ticket costing \$14. If you're interested or have questions, contact Lee Dudek at [Ieland.dudek@gmail.com](mailto:Ieland.dudek@gmail.com).

**A Message from the Finance Committee**

An envelope system has been developed to assist members who would like to make an accountable *cash* contribution toward their stewardship pledge. The use of this envelope presents special accounting and recording issues and it is hoped that its use will be reserved for this purpose only. The envelopes can be found near the display of sermon copies in the foyer. An usher can direct you to them. Questions? Contact [finance@pbuuc.org](mailto:finance@pbuuc.org).

**ART HAPPENINGS**

Did you see the Members and Friends exhibit now hanging in the Meeting House? There are one or two pieces of artwork by nineteen different artists. We are a creative congregation! This exhibit will be in place through Sunday, July 7 when exhibitors will be taking their pieces home.

*Jane Trout, Visual Arts Committee*

**NOTE:** The June 9 Music at Paint Branch Concert has been CANCELLED.

**Accepting American Muslims**

The Social Action Committee is pleased to announce that this year we are participating in Greenbelt's "Peace Month." During Enrichment Hour on June 23 (at PBUUC), we will have a presentation on "Accepting American Muslims" by Rabia Chaudry, who works with police departments to raise their consciousness about discrimination. Some of us heard Ms. Chaudry at the recent Maryland United for Peace and Justice conference and want to share her message with you. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Marj Donn, 301-474-1353.

**PBUUC Eco-Tour**

It's not too late. Those who missed my PBUUC eco-tour offering at our 2012 auction have a second chance. For just a \$10 contribution to the church you can join us on Saturday June 8 at 10 am for a tour of the eco-jewels and warts of our grounds and facilities. So, put it on your calendar.

We will meet at the entrance to the deck for an easy, 1 to 1 1/2-hour tour of our woods, glens, boundaries, memorial sites, picnic area, parking-lot gardens, stormwater management challenges, including an update on current plans, geo-thermal facilities, and accessibility problems. There will be handouts, maps of our place in the larger watershed, plant lists (including alien invasives), and photo opportunities. Please RSVP Lowell Owens at 301-345-1572 or [lowellandmarge@verizon.net](mailto:lowellandmarge@verizon.net).

**A Celebration of Sacred Dance**

*Saturday, June 8, 7:30 pm*

*Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD*

<http://www.pbuuc.org/> 301-937-3666

We are celebrating Sacred Dance! The concert brings together local sacred dance groups to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Chalice Dancers of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. The group expands and redefines the liturgical dance tradition for the Unitarian Universalist faith.

The Chalice Dancers bring the joy of sacred movement into Sunday Services, under the Artistic Direction of Sharon Werth. Sharon's introduction to sacred dance from Erika Thimey, (a pioneer in this dance form since the 30's) has continued to influence her career as a teacher and performer.

The Chalice Dancers will be joined by The Erika Thimey Dance Company, 4 Dancing, Natyabhoomi School of Indian Dance, and The Davis Dance Center.

A free-will donation will be collected at the door. All donations are tax deductible. Light refreshments will be served.

**Please join us for this joyous celebration!**

"I danced about the struggles of life and the aspirations of life.

I danced about the dark and the light of life. And sometimes,

I danced about things you can't put your finger on, but know they are there."

-Erika Thimey



## Spirit of Life Center

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church  
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20783  
Web: [www.pbuuc.org/solcc/](http://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. **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 acupuncture protocol of Soul Lightening International for deep relaxation. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)

**Meditation Workshop:** by Raman Pathik. **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday. 9:30 am-11 am. 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 requested)

**Laughter Yoga-mix Class:** by Tina McCloud. **Saturday 9:30 am-10:30 am.** 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)

**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 for book) (Suggested donation \$5 requested)

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



### Note to Our Readers:

The Church Administrator is responsible for the production of the newsletter.

**SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES:** All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to: [branches@pbuuc.org](mailto:branches@pbuuc.org).

**The Leadership Directory**, (on page 2 of this issue), will contain names only. For more contact information, please consult your Membership Directory or call the Church Office at 301-937-3666. All submitted articles will contain phone numbers and or email addresses 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.
- 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**.
- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** should be submitted in their final form, and content should be **120** words or less. Please try to keep announcements one paragraph with a clear headline or topic sentence. Please include day, date, location, time, and contact information. Announcements should be PBUUC related, non-PBUUC events must have explicitly stated UU connection.

**All deadlines are now on the web calendar. Go to [www.pbuuc.org](http://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.**

Check here if you no longer wish to receive this mailing and return to PBUUC  
**EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG**  
**WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG**  
**(301) 937-3666**  
**ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030**  
**3215 POWDER MILL ROAD**  
**PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**