



BRANCHES



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

November 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.

NOVEMBER 3

ABRIENDO NUESTROS PUERTAS, MENTES, Y CORAZONES

Rev. Diane Teichert with Noel Monardes, Worship Associate and the Choir

We will honor *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) as the service begins, so please (children and adults) bring a photo or memento of a deceased loved one (person or pet) for the *ofrenda* (altar). The sermon will explore how we change as we “open our doors, minds and hearts” and become increasingly engaged with, and representative of the nearby communities.

NOVEMBER 10

FAMILIES, FREEDOMS, FINANCES, AND FAITH

Rev. Diane Teichert with Carol Boston, Worship Associate

From finances to faith formation, American family life has been shifting. What is emerging as religious communities successfully address these new identities? Our veterans of war and of peace will be honored in the service. It is also Signing Sunday – for those who are ready to sign the PBUUC Membership Book, meet the Minister and Board member at the chalice after the service.

NOVEMBER 17

GRATITUDE AND GIVING:

AN ALL-AGES THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

*Rev. Diane Teichert, Director of Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards,
and Mary Wester, Worship Associate, with the Youth Group, the Choir and the Children's Choir*

Celebrating the harvest with shared cornbread and cider, and our gratitude with serving and giving, we will also meet the “guests” whose work we support with our Special Collection contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (**see page 7**). Please bring non-perishables for a nearby food pantry. If you love to bake cornbread, please tell Diane or Dayna!

NOVEMBER 24

LAY DOWN YOUR BURDENS

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Bettie Young, Worship Associate
Solo dance by Sharon Werth, Director of the Chalice Dancers*

As we move from autumn to winter and from our “identity” theme to exploring “compassion and justice” as our dual responses to the gift of being alive, we invoke compassion for ourselves, our secrets, fears and fallibilities, even as we strive to do the same for others. Newcomers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office from 11:30 to 12:30.

**Each Sunday morning, be sure to introduce yourself
to at least one person who is new to you.
And remember, before the Internet, churches grew by word-of-mouth. It still works!**

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

☞ Officers and Board of Trustees ☞

Co-Chair	Don Gerson
Co-Chair	Charles Towe
Vice Chair	Don Mitchell
Vice Chair	Alice Tyler
Trustee	Peter Dowling
Trustee	Melody Lawrence
Trustee	Theresa Myrdon
Trustee	Evangeline Wells
Secretary	Laura Abdi
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

☞ Worship Associates ☞

Carol Boston (2013-16)	Ken Redd (2011-14)
Jonathan Mawdsley (2012-15)	Mary Wester (2013-16)
Noel Monardes (2013-16)	Bettie Young (2012-15)

☞ Pastoral Care Associates ☞

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

☞ We Care Coordinators ☞

Allison Hughes
Esther Nichols
Gloria "Genie" Van Pelt

☞ Chartered Committees & Task Forces ☞

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
	Jane Trout (Visual Arts)
Auction	Mark Shute
Budget Leadership Team	TBD
Buildings & Grounds	Lowell Owens (Acting)
Capital Campaign	Peter Wathen-Dunn
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most & Carol Carter Walker
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson (Acting)
Electronic Communications	TBD
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl
Finance	Shantida
Green Team (co-chairs)	Penny O'Brien & Will Snyder
Leasing	Church Office
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Membership	Polly Pettit
Ministry	John Bartoli
Nominating	TBD
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration (co-chairs)	Tabitha Pierzchala & Elizabeth Porter
	TBD
Site Improvement	Nancy Boardman
Social Action	Raman Pathik
Spirit of Life Center	TBD
Stewardship	

☞ Groups and Activities ☞

Bookstore	Carol Carter-Walker
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Charles Towe
Community Café	Esther Nichols
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Gift Card Sales	Vacant
Handcraft Circle	Marj Donn
Listserv & Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield
Mediation Program	David Haberman
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Men's Retreat	Michel Léger
Moms of Young Ones	Renée Katz
Mystery Book Club	Kathy Kearns
Nature Spirituality Circle	Tabitha Pierzchala
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik
SINKS and DINKS	Kathy Kearns & Jan Montville

☞ Staff ☞

Spirituality Circle	
TWedHUULK	
Ushers	
Warm Nights	
Webmaster	
Welcome Table Greeters	
Women's Group	
Women's Retreat	

Please contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for Staff listed.

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert
Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director of Religious Exploration	Dayna Edwards
Youth Coordinator	vacant
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Alexis Saunders
Bookkeeper	Debra McCann
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Donovan Bynes
	Jesse Crowley
	Wyatt Rexach
Child Care Providers:	Beth Judy
	Jazmin Balbuena

The Minister's mUUsings...

My November 2012 newsletter column began like this:

“A distressing thing happened in the minister’s office one afternoon in the last week of September. At the time, I was sure it had metaphorical meaning...”

What happened was that a black snake had gotten into my office probably through my open window with a torn screen and had become ensnared on a very sticky adhesive-covered cardstock mousetrap hidden behind a cupboard! Chuck Bury, then our Administrative Assistant now Church Administrator, painstakingly helped the poor snake to freedom outdoors, with me assisting.

This November of 2013, I have another story from our incredibly lovely woodland setting and how it brings us humans into contact with its animal and plant residents from time to time. This one also involves a snake. Who knows if it’s the same one?

As you may know, we now have two schools renting space in the Religious Exploration Building during the week. The Oshixay Homeschooling Cooperative is with us for a second year, 1.5 days per week, using a few rooms upstairs. And a Baptist day school, Hope Christian Academy, rents the Lower Level and the Nursery/Room 5 five full days per week (one of the parents does their daily cleaning so you may run into him if you are in the building for an evening meeting). Both sets of children are often outdoors enjoying the glen, the stream and the woods. I love to see them out there!

Well, guess what? Last month, the children came upon a very large black snake on the forest floor making a meal

of a squirrel! Can you imagine?! I’m told that some were frightened and others disgusted, while others seemed to regard it just as “nature at work,” but almost all were enthralled. They watched until the meal was complete and the snake slithered its way up high in a tree to digest its food. What a science lesson! What a great way to learn about nature and our ecological niche!

The opportunities for such lessons are endless on our property, as was pointed out during the Reclaiming Our Space discussions in Winter/Spring of 2010 when the idea of a summer day camp arose. So, I’m delighted about the weeklong, evolution-friendly summer day camp idea that has been proposed by our new Director of Religious Exploration, Dayna Edwards, to the RE Committee and favorably received. It will be modeled on Camp Beagle at the Annapolis UU Church, which Dayna helped run when she worked there. It’s set to take place the third week of June. Be in touch if you’d like to be involved!

It will provide more opportunities for children and adults to interact with and learn from the plants and animals with which we are privileged to share our lovely site in the woods. Snakes, we will be watching for you!

Hoping to see you on Sundays,

Diane

*There will be a
Newcomers Gathering with Diane in her office
on Sunday November 24 from 11:30 to 12:30.
Child care provided in Room 5.*

Wheel of Life

Our hearts go out to Kay Daly and her daughters Linda Daly-Lucas and Sandy Ball. Fred Daly - their son and brother, respectively - died unexpectedly Saturday, October 5 in North Carolina where he lived. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, November 2 at 4 pm in the Meeting House.

Our hearts go out to Michel Léger, whose mother died on Friday, October 25 at 90 years of age.

Former member Lynn Edmiston attended our October 27 service and shared a sorrow that her wife Leannette Carlson died recently. A memorial service is scheduled for 2 pm on Sunday, November 17 at the UU Church of Silver Spring where they became members after leaving PBUUC.

Congratulations to Leo Jones and Sabrina Finlay (now Jones), whose marriage was celebrated on September 28 in the Meeting House, with Diane officiating.



Our Caring Community

The We Care Coordinator for November is Esther Nichols. If you or a congregant you know is in need of (or can provide) rides, meals, cards or visits, please call her at 301-864-2068.

URGENT NEED!

We are SOON down to ONE We Care Coordinator! Are you seeking a way to get to know your congregation better? Do you like to help others and have some time to phone or do email? Consider becoming a We Care Coordinator! The meetings are once every six or so weeks, during the day on a weekday, Saturday or Sunday at a mutually convenient time.

This ministry provides support and practical help to congregants in need by matching their need with those who have previously indicated their willingness to help others out in that way, and coordinating help with receptions for memorial services.

We have lists of volunteers for specific tasks, such as bringing a meal to a shut-in or to a recently bereaved (or blessed with a new baby) family, or giving someone a ride to the doctor. You would be responsible for matching needs and helpers for a month (the number of matches you will need to make vary from none to no more than five in the month), in a rotation of once every three or four months (depending on whether there are three or four We Care Coordinators).

The We Care Coordinators meet with the minister once every six weeks or so; the meetings are held in the daytime on a weekday, Saturday or Sunday, scheduled to be convenient for all.

Please talk with Diane, or one of the current We Care Coordinators: Allison Hughes, Genie Van Pelt and Esther Nichols if you are interested.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

In last month's issue of BRANCHES we listed some of the many ways Members and Friends could be of service to the Church. We are still in need of volunteers to take on some of those roles and tasks. Contact the church office for additional information.

Board of Trustees Column

The Board Beat, November 2013:

The general tenor of the region has been quite dour of late with the government shutdown and continued sour political climate that has impacts on so many lives in the congregation. But we are a hopeful group and the Board of Trustees joins with the congregation to celebrate a handful of successes and joys this past month. First, it was a joy to celebrate the completion of the deck rebuilding a few weeks back. On behalf of the entire board we want to thank Lowell Owens in particular for his tireless work during the bid, specification, and completion of the deck project. Without his effort we surely would have spent our limited resources with less efficiency. We also thank Lee Dudek, former BAG chair, for his careful oversight of the planning process and Don Mitchell who served as a project manager for the work and assured compliance with the contract.

On another happy note, Marilyn Pearl completed 25 years of coordinating our Ethnic Dinners with a superb Greek-themed dinner which all enjoyed. A group of Greek dancers added to the merriment, which included many audience members. For her 25-year effort, Marilyn was toasted by all present.

And for an item that all PBUUC members should be very proud of, there is the tutoring project, which is part of the DARTT program and is being spearheaded by Carmelita Carter Sykes. Many of the teachers attended a session of a similar program being conducted at All Souls Church to see how a 2-year-old, established program really works. The special collection for this effort last Sunday collected over \$1100 and, at the UUSJ Awards dinner on the same Sunday, it received a \$500 award from UUSJ. What a great start!!

In closing we would like to begin soliciting interest in a new coordinator for the Gift Card program ran with great success by John Bartoli for several years. In large part, due to a recent theft from the office which was the second break-in we have endured in recent memory, and the subsequent accounting effort to recover and reclaim cards, John is taking a well deserved break from managing this effort. We have many motivated Paint Branchers that will attest to the importance of the program and its history in the church, so please ask questions of any member of the BOT if you are looking for an opportunity to expand your service responsibilities.

Charles Toue & Don Gerson
Board of Trustees Co-Chairs

Religious Exploration

As I write this article I am just returning from the LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Fall Conference in Minneapolis, MN. For me, this was a time of reflection, worship, renewal, and learning. For the congregation, it means we have access to cutting-edge best-practices in religious exploration!

At the conference, we heard from a group of highly qualified religious educators and ministers from the Fahs Collaborative (<http://www.meadville.edu/the-fahs-collaborative.php>), who are leading the charge in developing religious education models and strategies relevant in the 21st Century. The Fahs Collaborative is a part of the Meadville-Lombard Theological School, which explores innovative ways to deepen faith formation. The presenters shared ideas on how to engage in faith-forming activities all week long. They even introduced the idea of a UU liturgical calendar (see <http://www.wizduum.net/>). Also, the presenters shared ways that we can connect with UUs and engage with the local community using social media. Imagine developing a PBUUC app and a QR code that links to that app! My head is still swimming as I try to integrate all that I learned. I left the conference feeling inspired and energized. I can't wait to spread my enthusiasm for these new ideas with each of you.

One place that we can all engage in developing a plan for RE and integrating some of these new ideas is during the DRE Start-up Workshop, scheduled for November 15 and 16. When a new DRE or minister is hired, or called, by a congregation, it is suggested that the UUA district staff (in our case, the Joseph Priestly District) lead a workshop that helps set a positive tone and direction for the new staff person and the congregation. Let's use this start-up workshop as a place to re-affirm our commitment to multiculturalism and community outreach. Let's set aside the time of this start-up to collaborate on new ideas you may have and set the direction for RE. Let's look at this start-up as "our" collective start-up together. Join us for this vital conversation about PBUUC's religious exploration program. We want your thoughts, your input, and your action.

Yours In Faith,

Dayna Edwards

Director of Religious Exploration

START-UP WORKSHOP

A Start-up Workshop for our new DRE, Dayna Edwards, is scheduled for Friday, November 15, 7 pm - 9 pm and Saturday, November 16 1 pm - 5 pm. Dinner and child-care will be provided on Friday night. All of those interested in shaping the direction for the RE Program are encouraged to attend, especially on Friday night. Please RSVP to Dayna Edwards at dre@pbuuc.org.

What is a QR code and how do I use it?

In my main Branches article I mentioned something called a QR code. A QR code is similar to a barcode. It stores information (usually a website address) and is read by a camera located on a smartphone or tablet. If you own a smartphone or tablet you probably have one of the apps below already stored on your device, if not you can easily download the app using Apple Store or Google Play.

iPhone App that Reads QR Codes



Android App that reads QR Codes

Once you download the app, you can open the app and point your device camera toward the app. Your device will read the code and point you toward the website to which it is linked. Chuck Bury, has created a QR code (see below) that links to the "Contact Us" page of the PBUUC website. Try it out! Let me know if you are successful in using the QR code or if you need help.

PBUUC Contact Page:

PBUUC Web Calendar:



PBUUC aUuction 2013

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

2013 Fundraising aUuction**Come See What's New!**

Saturday, November 9

4:00 pm – Silent Auction; 6:00 pm – Dinner

6:30 pm – Live Auction; 7:00 pm – Entertainment

What's New at the PBUUC aUuction?

- ◆ We're having Indian Food for dinner, catered by Maurya Kebabs & Curries of Greenbelt!
- ◆ We've brought in a professional benefit auctioneer to call the live auction!
- ◆ We can accept credit cards in addition to cash and checks!
- ◆ The silent auction will have a new guaranteed price "Buy It Now" option!
- ◆ And we've got great new back-end auction software, but that's not something you really care about!

2013 aUuction Dinner Menu

- ◆ **Green Salad** with homemade dressing
- ◆ **Vegetable Samosas** - Triangle shaped pastry stuffed with peas, potatoes, onions & spices (Vegan)
- ◆ **Channa Masala** - Chick peas cooked with onions, ginger, tomatoes and other spices. Garnished with onions and fresh cilantro (medium spicy, Vegan)
- ◆ **Aloo Ghobi** - Cauliflower and potatoes cooked with mild spices (Vegan)
- ◆ **Butter Chicken** - Boneless chunks of marinated chicken breast cooked in a tandoor oven in a tomato cream sauce & garnished with fenugreek leaves
- ◆ **Beef Sheesh Kebab** - Minced beef mixed with onions, herbs and spices, and cooked on a skewer over charcoal grill
- ◆ **Naan Bread**
- ◆ **Seasoned Rice**
- ◆ Raita (yogurt sauce), mint chutney, and tamarind sauce on side

** A complete list of ingredients for all menu items, including which items are gluten free, will be available in the foyer after the service on Sunday, November 3.*

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Paint Branch Support for Raising the Minimum Wage as a Moral Imperative

Congregations are being asked to join with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to sign a statement supporting legislation to raise the minimum wage closer to a living wage and to index it to inflation so that worker purchasing power is not eroded by Congressional inaction. SAC will be asking Paint Branchers to sign their agreement with this national UUA/UUSC statement following the November 10th service when Rev. Diane will be preaching a sermon related to the increasing wealth divide in our country. SAC plans to then present our signatures to the Board of Trustees - asking for their authorization to have PBUUC, as a congregation, sign this national statement. By doing so we will be standing in solidarity with people struggling to survive on the minimum wage! A SAC table will be in the Lobby where you can sign, as well as SAC members walking around with clipboards to make it easier for signing. Additionally on November 10th we will also have sign-up sheets for folks interested in working with SAC on this important issue of the widening wealth divide in our country. In the social justice congregational survey done last spring this issue came in second for SAC as a priority issue - following our new tutoring program in first place.

On the same topic, a forum was held in Arlington on October 17, entitled "YOU NEED A RAISE! Fighting Growing Income Inequality and the Policies that Foster It." Nancy Boardman and Marj Donn attended this excellent forum. The speakers made clear that policy decisions made over the past 30 years have led to the upward accumulation of wealth for a few- while income has stagnated for most Americans. This is not the inevitable result of globalization and the advancement of technology in the workplace they said. Instead policies can be changed with enough popular pressure to reverse these trends. Information from the forum will be available at the SAC table after the service on November 10.

Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:

Saturday, November 16, from 10 am to 12:30
in Room 1 of the RE Building

Transgender Day of Remembrance on Saturday, November 16, 2013

This year we will again be working with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) for passage of legislation in the Maryland General Assembly that will extend anti-discrimination protections to transgender people statewide. This special service of remembrance on Saturday, November 16 at 6 pm is for the deaths of individuals based on anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. It brings us together to raise public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people and to mourn and honor the lives of those who might otherwise be forgotten. It is being held at Twinbrook Baptist Church, 1001 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20851. It will be followed by a community dinner. For more information call Susan Staff 301-244-5610. Flyers are in the lobby with more detailed information.

September Special Collection for the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Thank you for the over \$500 collected for this important statewide advocacy network that is "Putting UU values to work for justice in Maryland." We at Paint Branch work in close collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD), lobbying with them during the Maryland General Assembly. In 2013 their issues included climate change, equality for transgender people, repeal of the death penalty, and prevention of gun violence. In late January we will be attending their Annapolis planning session for the upcoming General Assembly session where key issues for 2014 will be decided.

November Special Collection to Benefit Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

In this month where we give thanks for the plenty that is spread on our holiday tables, we remember that there are many people in the world who are not so fortunate. The Special Collection on November 17 will go to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) efforts here in the US and abroad to fight hunger and suffering. We will also be collecting non-perishable food and distributing "Guest at Your Table" boxes that day.

News items from Nancy Boardman – SAC Chair
Tel: 301-982-3450 E-Mail: sac@pbuuc.org

PBUUC Community Learning Center

BLUE RIBBON DAY FOR THE PBUUC TUTORING PROGRAM: SPECIAL COLLECTION, UUSJ GRANT, FIELD TRIP, NEW NAME, AND MORE

Sunday, October 20, was an amazing day for our tutoring program. During the Sunday service we raised \$1107.50 in the special collection to benefit the program. At the UUSJ gala that evening Nancy Boardman received word that our proposal for a \$500 UUSJ grant had been successful. Six Paint Branchers observed three levels of ESL instruction at All Souls in the afternoon. We met with the coordinators and administrative team members to ask questions before and after the observations. After that, we met among ourselves and decided to launch the program on January 5.

Flyers announcing the program will be ready for distribution on November 3. At its October 13 meeting, the Steering Committee decided to change the name of the program to the Paint Branch Community Learning Center. On November 5, we will be hosting Lee Shainis, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Intercambio, publisher of the ESL materials we will be using. We hope to receive advice and encouragement from Lee who built his company from the ground up.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting Tuesday, November 5

DARTT's next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, November 5 at 7:30 pm in Room 4, Religious Exploration Building. DARTT's major focus 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 intentional multiculturalism resolution. All are welcome. If you can't attend, please send your input to DARTT@pbuuc.org



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Amplify our UU Voices: Support UUSJ through the Combined Federal Campaign #17271

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region (UUSJ) is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and needs your support to help give a louder voice to UU principles through collective action and advocacy. UUSJ's primary focus areas are immigration, the environment, LGBTQ rights, and wealth inequality.

Your gift can be credited to your congregation's annual fair share contribution to UUSJ if you select the CFC option to make your name available to your selected charities. If not, please send your name and congregation's name to info@uusj.org. For your contribution you become a member of UUSJ.

Please donate to UUSJ by choosing #17271 on your CFC form.

For information about UUSJ visit www.uusj.org Thank you!

Celebrate the Rich Artistry of Afghanistan While Supporting Afghan Literacy

Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction

Friday, November 8, 6 pm

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814*

Tickets \$50 per person

Featuring:

- ◆ Authentic Afghan dinner
 - ◆ Film on Afghan Women and Literacy by Arlene Moscovitch
 - ◆ Report from Kabultec founder, Nasrine Gross, on 2013 activities
 - ◆ Silent auction featuring hand-crafted items from bazaars and women's groups throughout Afghanistan, including large and small textiles, jewelry, clothing, pottery, and more
 - ◆ Raffle of unique Afghan handicrafts (tickets, \$10)
 - ◆ Latest books on Afghanistan and Afghan women on sale
- Proceeds will support couples literacy classes and several orphanages in Afghanistan through Kabultec.

Reservations:

Mail checks made out to "Kabultec" (a 501c3 organization) to: Eleanor DePaola, 7941 Inverness Ridge Rd., Potomac, MD 20854
Or phone 301-299-6236.

If you are unable to come but would like to support Kabultec, please send a donation to Eleanor. Cash or checks only.

Sorry, no one under 21 will be admitted because wine will be offered.

Seed Donations: Packets of vegetable & flower seeds for widows' gardens in Afghanistan will be gratefully accepted.

*Directions: <http://www.cedarlane.org/directions>
or call 301-493-8300

In and Around Paint Branch

TWedHUULK Will Gather at Busboys & Poets

On November 20, the Third Wednesday Hyattsville-area UU Lunch Klub will get together at Busboys and Poets. A long, healthy menu, moderate prices, and a hearty welcome are the main reasons we will return. Very plentiful parking at the free municipal lots half a block from the restaurant helps as well. And the progressive slogans on the walls, the menus, the restrooms, and where ever there is a flat surface make us feel at home. If you need a ride or can offer a ride to someone please contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572. Directions: Drive south on Route 1 (Baltimore Ave.) to the Arts District where there is now a group of ten or more eating places, just before you come to the County Service Bldg. Turn left when you see the Busboys and Poets sign to drive into the parking lot.

Women's Group

The Women's group is continuing their excursions to learn about the people of this country. Last month we went on the Underground Railroad Hike to learn about the difficulties that enslaved people had in trying to escape to freedom. It was enlightening and there is talk about going back for one of the night reenactment hikes, but that is for the future.

For November we are switching gears to the first people who inhabited this land we call home. Come join the Women's Group Sunday, November 10, for a trip to the National Museum of the American Indian. We will lunch at the Mitsitam Café and then tour the exhibit: 'Grand Procession' which celebrates Native identity through colorful and meticulously detailed objects that are much more than dolls. Traditionally made by females, figures like these have long served as both toys and teaching tools for American Indian communities. Outfitted in intricate regalia, these dolls represent Plains and Plateau tribes. Their superb craftsmanship and attention to detail imbue these figures with a remarkable presence and power, turning a centuries-old tradition into a contemporary art form.

Transportation by Metro is from Greenbelt to L'Enfant Plaza station. We will meet in the café around 12:30 to enjoy lunch and then proceed to the exhibit.

If you would like to join us, or if you have any questions, please contact Wendy Schlegel at washedgel@gmail.com or at 301-649-4976

Music Notes

Music at Paint Branch" presents concert pianist San-Qing Lu-Bennaman on Sunday, December 1, 2013 at 4 pm. Her program will feature the music of Schubert, Chopin and Liszt. Ms. Lu-Bennaman has appeared many times on the Music at Paint Branch series and her performances are not to be missed. Once again on the program is Madeline W. Xu, the 7 year old prodigy of Ms. Lu-Bennaman. She will play Mozart's *Sonata in C major, K. 330*. She is a delight for the audience. The concert is free and there will be a reception following. Please bring family and friends and support the arts at Paint Branch.

Submitted by Jeri Holloway



ALL-AGES PBUUC TALENT SHOW

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Presented by Friends and Family Social, Spirit of Life Center, and David Chapman. Vegan and regular pizzas, punch and salad will be served at 6:30 pm. Donations \$5/person requested. Under-5-year-olds are free. Bring all of your friends, family and neighbors to enjoy the evening. RSVP to Raman Pathik at 301-890-9072 or rpathik@verizon.net with how many people may attend and pizza preferences by November 21, so we can order pizza.

ART HAPPENINGS:

Our new artist is Julie Miller, who will be exhibiting a series of her photographs entitled Turkey Times Two. Julie shares these photos taken in Turkey in 2011 and 2012, as she explored that country's unique landscape, architecture, and culture. During her more than 30 years as a science writer and editor in the DC area, Julie became increasingly interested in photography. Her works have appeared in many juried exhibits and solo shows; most recently she presented *Accidental Architecture*, intriguing images of building demolition sites, at Photoworks in Glen Echo Park. Peter Dowling and Polly Pettit, longtime "volleyball" friends of Julie, recommended that she show her photos of Turkey in our exhibit space. The photos will be on display through January 5, 2014.



Jane Trout, Chair of the Visual Arts Committee

In and Around Paint Branch, cont'd

Warm Nights

As the weather gets cooler, we might be reminded of those who have no warm place to be. Warm Nights is an opportunity for communities of faith to support the homeless people in our area by providing lodging and meals. Paint Branch has participated in this program for the past ten years. This year (2014), we will host the program from January 26th -February 2nd. We will be calling on all of our members and friends to support the effort in some way. The first way to be involved is to bring items to place in the collection box in the foyer. Things needed include trial size or small containers of toiletries, soaps, toothbrushes, floss and/or other like items. The box will be in the foyer starting December 1st. Please put Warm Nights on your calendar!

Submitted by *Sabrina Jones*

Spirit of Life Center Forum

All are invited to attend the Spirit of Life Center Forum on Sunday, November 3, during Enrichment Hour. Led by me and Raman Pathik, coordinator of the SOLC, you will hear about the original vision for it and how it is struggling now, share experiences attending its programs, consider its benefits to participants and PBUUC as a community service, and give your input on its future.

- *Rev. Diane Teichert*



Kwanzaa All-Ages Worship and Sharing Feast Plans

Mark your calendars!!! The Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church annual Kwanzaa Worship Service and Sharing Feast always occurs on the Sunday of the week beginning December 26 through January 1. This year our service will be an All-Ages event on Sunday, December 29. Please plan to participate, and bring your friends and family to this thoughtful, warm-spirited, intentional community tradition honoring and reinforcing African-American principles such as unity, purpose, cooperation, creativity and faith.

Our Kwanzaa worship service typically features traditional music, drumming, and the Chalice dancers. After the worship service, we share with each other our offerings of African, African-American or Southern dishes in a semi-planned pot luck "Sharing Feast" in the sanctuary. As we tell our Religious Exploration participants, it is the coming together in a spirit of respectful inclusiveness that makes the event a "feast." Recipes are provided and suggestions are offered for no-cooking/baking alternatives. Please plan in advance to join this wonderful winter celebration! For more information, email DARTT@pbuuc.org or talk to Tricia Most.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: PBUUC HOLIDAY EVENTS

Watch for details in December's Branches:

- Friday evening, December 6 — All-Ages Holiday Party
- Sunday morning, December 8 — Holiday Choir Service
- Sunday morning, December 15 — Holiday Craft Sale after the Service*
- Sunday morning, December 22 — All-Ages Solstice Service followed by our Holiday Meal
- Tuesday evening, December 24
 - 4:30 pm — All-Ages Christmas Eve Service
 - 8:00 pm — Christmas Eve Service
- Sunday morning, December 29 — All-Ages Kwanzaa Service (see article)

* Interested crafters, please contact Tina Van Pelt.





Spirit of Life Center

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

The Spirit of Life Center welcomes individuals from the local community to practice enriching activities through a variety of classes and workshops that are designed to promote a better quality of life, health, and connection with others

CHANGING DIRECTION DOES NOT HAVE TO BE DIFFICULT!

“The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.” --Albert Einstein

The Spirit of Life Center is devoted to bringing our inner and outer mind into harmony with each other through our *Breath Awareness Practice*, *Quality of Life Workshop*, and *Simplicity Circle Workshop*, starting November 7, 2013. These programs will help you to take baby steps towards becoming a healthy, happy, and loving person. You can be a role model for your family and community. Read these descriptions of what to expect in these workshops and decide for yourself whether these workshops can be the start of your evolution:

“Your breath anchors you to life. Being aware of your breathing will make you aware of your life”

Breath Awareness Practice: by Raman Pathik

Saturday 10 am - 10:30 am

Another way of looking at your breath is as an inner light house to guide you back to the present moment. The goal of breath awareness 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.

Quality of Life Workshop: by Raman Pathik

Saturday 10:30 am - 12 pm

What does "quality of life" mean to you? Develop a blueprint to implement better habits that will improve the balance in your life. Experience connecting with your true self, nature, your family, your community, your finances, your body, and the world.

Simplicity Circle Workshop: by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute

Saturday 12 pm - 1 pm

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. Six sessions following the workbook.

Each one of these workshops is a comprehensive six-week program taking place on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. For more information, contact Raman Pathik at 301-890-9072 or email solcc@pbuuc.org. A special suggested donation of \$50 covers all three workshops for six weeks. The Simplicity Circle workbook is an extra \$28.

Class sizes are limited; RSVP required.

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.

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. 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
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