



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

May 2014

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.

MAY 4

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

Guest Preachers Rev. John Manwell and Rev. Phyllis Hubbell with Carol Boston, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration; and the Choir

Too often, life disrupts our best-laid plans. We revisit this morning the ancient question: How can we live intentionally and embrace life fully, in the face of the uncertainty of life? We will also recognize and honor PBUUC's newest members in a ceremony coordinated by Polly Pettit, Chair of the Membership Team. (See page 3 for more information on our Guest Preachers.)

MAY 11

LEARN AND LET LEARN: LESSONS FROM FLYING TRAPEZE

Guest Preacher Rev. Rob Keithan, with Mary Wester, Worship Associate; and Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration

At home, work, and play, life gives us endless opportunities to learn and to support learning. Sometimes we're the student, and sometimes we're the teacher. And sometimes it's not that clear! (See page 3 for more information on our Guest Preacher.) This is also Child Dedication Sunday, see page 6 for more information if your family would like to take part.

MAY 18

WHERE THE THEOLOGY MEETS THE ROAD

Guest Preacher Rev. Michael Eselun, with Bettie Young, Worship Associate; Worship Associate Noel Monardes for Together Time; and the Choir

We think we know what we believe and what we hold to be true, but when it comes to a crisis of illness or death, often all bets are off. Michael Eselun, an oncology chaplain at the Simms/Mann - UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology, will share an exploration of the different ways patients' theologies intersect with such crises, and the common themes that seem to surface from the atheist or fundamentalist alike. (See page 3 for more information on our Guest Preacher.)

MAY 25

BE ASTONISHED

Guest Preacher Rev. Gretchen Weis with Ken Redd, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration; guest pianist Deni Foster and a Flute Quartet

A poet offers three simple instructions for living in this world: *Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.* We become what we pay attention to, the poet warns. Our observations and curiosity continue to make and remake us. When we take the time to pause and shake our senses fully awake, we open our hearts to rich, profound levels of experiencing wonder, mystery and awe. We are transformed. (See page 3 for more information on our Guest Preacher.)

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

☞ Officers and Board of Trustees ☞

Co-Chair	Don Gerson
Co-Chair	Don Mitchell
Vice Chair	Theresa Myrdon
Vice Chair	Alice Tyler
Trustee	Peter Dowling
Trustee	Melody Lawrence
Trustee	Evangeline Wells
Secretary	vacant
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 ☞

Esther Nichols
Fran Caughey

☞ Chartered Committees & Task Forces ☞

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

☞ Groups and Activities ☞

Bookstore	Carol Carter Walker
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	contact church office
Community Café	Esther Nichols
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
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 Community 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
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Sabrina Jones
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Carol Carter Walker
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Wendy Schlegel
Women's Retreat	Wendy Schlegel

☞ Office Volunteers ☞

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tue.), Will Snyder (Wed.), and Alice Tyler (Thu.)

☞ Staff ☞

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
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Alexis Saunders
Bookkeeper	Debra McCann
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Donovan Bynes
	Wyatt Rexach
Child Care Providers:	Beth Judy
	Jazmin Balbuena

The Minister's mUUsings...

On Friday April, 18, 2014, while in her office, Rev. Diane Teichert suffered a hemorrhagic stroke, affecting the right pre-motor cortex and basal ganglia of the brain, which control sensory and motor function for the left side of the body. This left her paralyzed and completely numb on the left side. The neurologists are optimistic that there will be some recovery, but they don't yet know how much. She is continuing her recovery at University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopedic Institute in Baltimore.

Diane is alert and conversant at times. The speech areas of her brain were unaffected, and her verbal and cognitive functioning is intact. But because of the partial facial paralysis, speaking is difficult and tiring. Her family have set up a page for Diane at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dianeteichert> where they can provide regular updates on Diane's recovery (sometimes dictated by Diane) and where friends can post their words of support.

Meet the Guest Preachers

May 4—Rev. John Manwell & Rev. Phyllis Hubbell



John Manwell and Phyllis Hubbell served Paint Branch as interim co-ministers during the year 2008-2009, after 14 years of settled ministry in Baltimore. Both

are former lawyers. Now living in Frederick, they are in their third year as part-time consulting ministers at the UU Church of Loudoun in Leesburg, VA.

May 11—Rev. Rob Keithan

Rev. Rob Keithan is Director of Public Policy at the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a national interfaith organization dedicated to reproductive justice. Previously, Rob served as Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations Washington Office, a consultant to the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, and as a consulting minister at two Unitarian Universalist congregations. Rob has helped to develop and lead countless programs on advocacy and organizing, and he has trained hundreds of facilitators to lead the junior high and high school portions of the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education curriculum. He is an affiliated minister at All Souls Church Unitarian and lives with his partner Mandy in Washington, DC.



May 18—Rev. Michael Eselun

Michael Eselun, BCC, a Unitarian Universalist, is chaplain for the Simms/Mann-UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology. He has worked extensively in oncology, hospice, palliative care and with acute psychiatric patients. He's been invited many times to speak to students, doctors, nurses and social workers about his work as a chaplain and the spiritual dimension of the cancer experience. He recently spoke at the national conference for Young Women Affected by Breast Cancer, and was the keynote speaker at the Promising Practices for Mental Health and Aging Conference. Michael was invited earlier this year to create a TED Talk-- you can check it out on YouTube.

Michael is also a co-founder and co-chair of a non-profit, volunteer anti-homophobia speakers bureau called GLIDE, Gays and Lesbians Initiating Dialogue for Equality (www.socalglide.org). He shares his life with Scott, his partner of 36 years. He is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica and has been a popular guest speaker there and at over 30 UU congregations including First Parish in Cambridge, MA.

May 25—Rev. Gretchen Weiss

Rev. Gretchen Weiss is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, one of two dedicated UU seminaries in the U.S. Rev. Gretchen served this past year as the ministerial intern at the UU Church in Arlington, and was invited to stay on there as summer minister. She was welcomed into preliminary fellowship by the UUA's credentialing board this fall and was ordained by her home congregation in January in Houston, Texas. Rev. Gretchen is called to parish ministry and is currently in search for a congregation.



Board of Trustees Column

Board Column, May 2014:

As you may know, Paint Branch UU Church's minister Rev. Diane Teichert suffered a stroke on April 18, 2014, and because of this recent health crisis she will be unable to lead Sunday services for the time being. The news of Diane's illness has been difficult. However, we want to assure all PBUUC members, friends, guests, and visitors that Sunday services will continue to be held during her absence.

To that end, the Worship Associates and PBUUC staff have begun to work with various guest ministers and speakers to offer Sunday services at the regular time through June 15. Service topics will of course be adjusted as we sort out the many generous offers from Diane's ministerial colleagues to support our congregation during this time.

Starting on June 22 and continuing through the end of August, we will have another summer of great lay-led services by Paint Branch UU Church members and guest speakers. We encourage you to attend these services when you are available, because it's more important than ever that we keep our community ties strong. If you have questions or concerns about upcoming services at any point in the coming weeks, or if you would benefit from support on a more personal level, please contact any of the Worship Associates or Pastoral Care Associates. (See the column "Our Caring Community" on this page.)

Several of Diane's colleagues have also volunteered to provide pastoral counseling and care should the need arise for anyone in the congregation. If you have a pastoral care need, please contact one of the Pastoral Care Associates, who will be in touch with an on-call Minister if they cannot meet your concerns. The Pastoral Care Associates, Worship Associates, and others will soon develop a process by which members and guests can request a minister for an occasion that requires an officiate, such as a memorial service or a wedding. A minister has now been identified by the Pastoral Care Associates who will fill this role.

Please know that during this difficult time, the PBUUC board of trustees, staff, and many others will do everything possible to honor our commitment to ministering to each other and to support our church. As people

who've been around PBUUC for any length of time know, this is a church of great resourcefulness and resilience. We will get through this challenge as we have others before. Church leaders are developing plans to make sure that essential tasks are covered as Diane recovers. Watch for more information in the newsletter, e-mail, and through social media in the days and weeks to come.

Don Gerson & Don Mitchell

Board of Trustees Co-Chairs

Teresa Myrdon & Alice Tyler

Board of Trustees Vice Chairs

Peter Dowling, Melody Lawrence, Evangeline Wells

Trustees

The Board of Trustees holds open Executive Committee meetings and Board of Trustees meetings. The Executive Committee meeting will be held in the Minister's Office on May 20 at 7:30 pm and the Board meeting will be held in Room 4 of the RE building on May 27 at 7:30 pm. We welcome visitors: if you wish to request 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, 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>

Our Caring Community

During Diane's recovery if you have a pastoral care need such as the death of a loved one, serious illness, hospitalization, or other immediate crisis, please contact one of the Pastoral Care Associates Lynn Johnson, Jeri Holloway, Will Snyder or Mike McMenamin who will be in touch with the on-call Minister if they cannot meet your concerns. Their contact information is in the Directory. In emergency situations, feel free to contact the church who will notify a Pastoral Care Associate or the Minister on-call.

The We Care Coordinator for May is Fran Caughey (pronounced Caw'-ee). If you or a congregant you know is in need of rides, meals, cards or visits, please contact Fran at 301-766-9648.

Religious Exploration



Over and over I am struck by the resilience of the faith community of PBUUC. In times of change and stress, I am reminded of how the ancient Celtic infinity knot can be a symbol for a tightly knit community, like ours. The beauty of a Celtic infinity knot is that the more you pull at

it, the tighter it becomes and the stronger it becomes. The other beautiful aspect of the Celtic infinity knot is that it has no beginning and no end. It existed long before us and will continue to exist after us. Our congregation has much in common with the Celtic infinity knot.

We had quite a shock to our system on Friday, April 18. The universe was pulling hard on our knot! Our beloved minister, who seemed healthy, active and engaged in her professional and personal life, suddenly, and without warning, had a stroke. Now, we as a congregation, will have to adjust to a “new normal.”

Depending on your relationship with Diane, your “new normal” will look different. Perhaps she made pastoral care visits to you and now you will have to rely on someone else for that spiritual support. Perhaps you made a point to make it to every Sunday that Diane was preaching and now you will have to adjust to a variety of ministers and lay people filling in on Sundays. For me, my “new normal” will require me to adjust to bouncing ideas off of other people and it will require me to reach out to a larger group of lay leaders and staff.

In my view, in times of stress and unexpected change, we have two choices. We can struggle against the “new normal,” and lament about the way things used to be; or we can surrender to the “new normal,” (much like the Celtic knot) and observe, without judgment, our feelings, our actions, and our reactions to the news of our minister’s recovery, while at the same time, we experience the pain of her absence.

During times of stress, like the serious illness of a beloved adult, our children and youth look to us to see how they should react. Their feelings, concerns and questions are valid no matter how simple or absurd it may seem to us as adults. I have compiled some resources to help adults and children work together to understand the mechanics behind strokes as well as the emotional aspects that are involved with recovery and rehabilitation. The resources I have collected can be found at <http://www.pinterest.com/daynaedwards1/resources-for-coping/>. Please feel free to add to this group of resources as you come across your own.

Let us take this opportunity of unexpected change to become stronger and to lean into our UU-principles. Let us support all of the people in our congregation wholeheartedly as we make sense of what our “new normal” looks like.

Yours In Faith,

Dayna Edwards,

Director of Religious Exploration



May's Rainbow Promise

In the month of May, the children in the Spirit Play classroom will be exploring the **Violet Rainbow Promise**: “value or interdependence with nature.” Below is a prayer that you can use as a chalice lighting, a bedtime prayer, or a conversation starter.

Spirit of Life, of decay and sustenance, of leaf mould and loam, of death and rebirth, I find strength in your touch upon my soul, your gift of beauty, breaking bud and rising sap. I am restored by the peace, the stillness, the possibility that comes with rebirth, the moment of potential that promises Life.

May I live to give birth to the promise, to raise it up, to grow it strong and grow it wise—and may I be able to offer it to us all.

– The Rev. Adam Robersmith

March 2010

<http://livingmosaic.blogs.uua.org/category/worship/community-prayers/>

Be a part of the RE Renaissance!!

We are on the cusp of an RE renaissance! An overhaul of our Middle and High School programming makes it an exciting time to volunteer and lend your skills for the 2014-2015 church year. We have opportunities for all skill-levels and commitment abilities. Interested in hearing more? Contact the DRE, Dayna Edwards (dre@pbuuc.org) or the RE Committee Members, Tricia Most, Jessica Sharp, Ebeth Porter, Carmelita Carter-Sykes and Tabitha Pierzchala.

Meet Our New Members



Sandra Keach Doyle became a member at Paint Branch UU Church on August 16, 2013. She lives locally and discovered the church when she visited the building with her husband Brendan, who attended Paint Branch Montessori School as a child. Sandra was happy with the sense of community at Paint Branch and open-mindedness of the church and its members. Currently a medical social worker, she has worked in child welfare in the past and continues to be passionate about it and actively involved. Sandra and Brendan are expecting their first child, a boy, in late May! Welcome to Paint Branch, Sandra!

Jeanne Judd and Chris Evans signed the Membership Book at PBUUC on June 30, 2013. They came to Paint Branch from Cedarhurst UU in Carroll County, where they were very involved members from 1989 to 2013. After moving from Owings Mills to Cheverly last year, they found Paint Branch and quickly became active members of the church community. They met as undergraduates at Penn State, and were introduced to the UU faith when they were planning their wedding. Raised Catholic, they were not permitted to get married at the Catholic church because Chris was stationed in Germany and so they were unable to take the preparatory classes required by that church. They were told UUs would "marry anyone" and decided on First UU Church of Pittsburgh as a wedding location in 1985. After living overseas in Germany for two years, they moved to Tucson and decided to attend the UU Church of Tucson to meet new people and get to know the area. They were members there for two years before moving to Owings Mills. Jeanne and Chris both work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Chris is involved in environmental cleanup, and Jeanne's work is in design and construction. Their two children are in college. Stephen is 21 and Samantha is 19. They have joined the Choir, and they each play instruments as well. Jeanne plays viola and harp and Chris plays guitar. Jeanne is co-leader of the PBUUC Children's Choir, and Chris is Co-Chair of the Stewardship Committee! Welcome, Jeanne and Chris!



Submitted by Renée C.M. Katz on behalf of the Membership Team

Child Dedication Ceremony - Sunday, May 11

The next Child Dedication Ceremony will take place during the May 11 Sunday Service.

In this lovely ceremony led by Director of Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards, the parents dedicate themselves to raising their child to "do the work of love and justice in our world," the congregation (including its children and youth) dedicates itself to the nurturing of the child, and the child is offered a blessing and a "rose without thorns." A certificate is presented to the parents.

This is the Unitarian Universalist ritual of welcome, in which parents and congregation dedicate themselves to the spiritual and ethical development of children; it does not symbolize cleansing or initiation as a baptism might. It takes place in the context of a normal worship service in the place of the Together Time so that all of the children and youth are present for it. The participating parents may invite family and friends to attend, who are welcome to, but are not required to, stand with them for the ceremony.

Are you interested in this opportunity for your family? It is appropriate for families with infants and any new family whose children have not yet been dedicated.

If your family would like to participate on May 11 or another date, please contact Dayna at 301-937-3666 or DRE@pbuuc.org

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

UUSJ Forum Economic Inequality Matters: Moving Toward Fairness,

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
UU Church of Arlington
4444 Arlington Blvd. Arlington, VA

Come to the UUs for Social Justice in the National Capital Region forum on economic inequality at UU Church of Arlington Saturday, May 3 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Join the conversation for a solutions-based discussion on root causes of economic inequality, remedies to the growing wealth divide, raising the minimum wage- pros and cons, campaign reform and getting money out of politics especially in light of the recent Supreme Court McCutcheon v. FEC ruling, and what you can do. The featured speaker, Stephen Shaff, is a community organizer, social entrepreneur and founder of the Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council with a mission to amplify the impact of sustainable business and the emerging Local, Green and New Economy. Panelists are Sean Barnett of Move to Amend; Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Executive Director of Common Cause Maryland; and David Marsden, 37th Virginia Senate District Senator. No cost, but please register. For more information call 202-600-9132 or info@uusj.org.

Then on Tuesday evening, May 13 at 7:30 pm:

SAC will welcome Alice Rothchild to Paint Branch for a screening of her new film VOICES ACROSS THE DIVIDE – followed by a discussion and sharing of ideas with her in the Kelley Room. She is a physician and Middle East peace activist, author/blogger and now filmmaker. Her first book, “BROKEN PROMISES, BROKEN DREAMS: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience,” came out in 2007. Her new film, which she will screen at Paint Branch and other locations during her week’s stay in the DC area, shares the voices of Palestinian families affected by the Jewish settlement of Israel in the late 1940’s (the Nakba) and was recently shown in the Boston area. For more information about Alice you can go to alicerothchild.com. SAC will be publicizing her visit outside Paint Branch and we hope to welcome new faces to this important gathering. It is clearly a sensitive area to explore as the US government works towards brokering a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians in their decades long conflict.

News Items from Nancy Boardman – SAC Chair
Tel: 301-982-3450 or SAC@pbuuc.org.

Green Team

Environment Film Series Continues

The film series that began with the showing of “Chasing Ice” during Enrichment Hour on April 26, continues May 24 and June 21. The screenings will be at the home of Judith (Hamburg) Grady— 7021 Storch Lane, Seabrook, MD 20706.

On May 24 we will show “Home.” This 2009 International award-winning documentary addresses environmental conditions around the world. The film's exquisite scenes are almost entirely composed of aerial shots from 52 nations. By watching this magnificent film you will learn: 1) a great deal about our planet's evolution; 2) the diversity of life on Earth; and 3) how humanity is affecting the planet's ecological balance; 4) how people around the world have created and are using innovative ideas to turn our environmental situation around; 5) how you and I can start reversing this situation. Director Yann Arthus-Bertrand said in 2009: “We are living in exceptional times. Scientists tell us that we have 10 years = (2019) to change the way we live, avert the depletion of natural resources and the catastrophic evolution of the Earth's climate. The stakes are high for us and our children. Everyone should take part in the effort, and ‘Home’ has been conceived to take a message of mobilization out to every human being.”

On June 21, our selection will be “The Great Warming - a Call to Action” by the National Wildlife Federation. “We are living at the dawn of a new epoch. Year by year, degree by degree, Earth is growing warmer... a legacy of the Industrial Revolution, population growth, and our addiction to technology, speed and power... Just as other generations spoke of a Great Plague and a Great Depression, our children will be compelled to endure The Great Warming - and find a way to conquer its consequences.” Filmed in eight countries on four continents, endorsed by dozens of the world's leading scientists, this is the most factually accurate, visually stunning and wide-ranging production ever mounted about this complex, fascinating subject. Narrators are Keanu Reeves and Alanis Morissette.

The Green Team plans to continue the series with potential films on other topics such as coal-burning power plants, tar-sands oil and the Keystone XL pipeline, natural gas and fracking, the Fukushima nuclear disaster, what is happening to our water supplies, the dangers of vinyl siding, and renewable energy technology.

Please RSVP to Judy at 301-794-8221 (h), 240-486-1210 (c), or judithann.hamburg@gmail.com.

Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:

Saturday, May 31, from 10 am to 12:30 pm
in Room 1 of the RE Building

Committee on Ministry

Great Response to COM Survey on Ministry!

We want to thank all of those who participated in our survey. We had 84 responses: 54 online and 30 on paper. As I write this, we are in the midst of hosting focus groups. We plan to summarize survey results and focus group comments for sharing with our minister. We then will report these results and comments to the Board of Trustees.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to our minister, Rev. Diane Teichert, who continues to recover from her stroke. Everyone is pulling together in Diane's absence. The Worship Associates are organizing our services and are scheduling guest ministers with the help of the Chesapeake chapter of the UU Ministers Association. The Board is taking care of any administrative issues that may come up. Pastoral Care Associates are available for anyone who needs their assistance.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) serves to nurture the ministry and the spiritual health of the congregation. Current members are John Bartoli, Susannah Schiller, and Leo Jones. We encourage anyone with comments, suggestions, or even praise for Diane's ministry to contact one of the members or send Email to com@pbuuc.org.

--John Bartoli, Chair

Buildings and Grounds (BAG)

BAG Beautification Day—Saturday May 31

All are invited to join in the beautification of the Meeting House, RE building, church grounds and parking lot. Come for as much or little time as you can to improve the beauty of our surroundings. Pizza will be served at noon. Contact person: Lowell Owens 301-345-1572.

Gardeners Wanted

Spring is finally here, and now is the time for all gardeners or would-be gardeners to get involved at PBUUC. Opportunities abound in our parking-lot island gardens for all levels of skill. Needs range from occasional care of an existing garden to the design and implementation of a whole new island garden. Training of novices is offered. For further information or to volunteer contact Lowell Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Resumes Reverberations

DARTT resumed its monthly Reverberations Series on Sunday, April 6, with "Speaking Of Speaking," facilitated by Bekki Ow-Arhus and Carol Carter Walker. Fifteen people attended the session and explored our actions, reactions and motivations regarding with whom we interact and why.

- * Who do you gravitate to and why?
- * Who you avoid and why?
- * Do you sometimes feel invisible here?
- * Do you sometimes feel uncomfortably conspicuous?
- * How do these questions impact our stated desire to journey toward becoming an intentional multicultural congregation?

The conversation was rich, deep and unfinished.

The next Reverberations Session will be co-facilitated by Leo and Sabrina Jones on Sunday, May 18. The working title is, "Who's In Your World?"

DARTT is seeking facilitators and topics for its sessions in June and throughout the Summer. Contact co-Chairs Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson and Carol Carter Walker at DARTT@pbuuc.org if you have a topic you are interested in or want to facilitate a session.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting Saturday, May 17

DARTT's mission is to facilitate the congregation's intentional multiculturalism through exchanges of personal experiences and other focused activities. Our next monthly meeting is Saturday, May 17 from 10 am to noon in Room 4, of the Religious Exploration Building. All are welcome. If you have questions or comments, please share them at DARTT@pbuuc.org or talk to Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson or Carol Carter Walker, current co-Chairs.





The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

3 ½ Days in New York City at the UU United Nations Office Seminars

The four people from Paint Branch who went to the annual April seminars this year got an earful about the issues on every continent facing the descendants of native people. The young people who planned our sessions this year found speakers from Central America, Africa, Asia, and North America. We heard about what the people themselves say are the most pressing needs: How they can protect the traditional ways for future generations, how they can protect their land, water, schooling, and access to enough power to have a say. This year's theme, based on the subject of a planned all-nation conference in 2016, was The Rights of Indigenous Peoples Around the World. A statement of concerns and policy direction to be submitted to the final policy-writing conference group was developed, as is the custom at these annual seminars.

Sophie Bernheisel, her father Steven, and Lowell and Marge Owens attended. Half the people who come every year are high school and early college ages, half are older, half are from the U.S. and half are from Canada. Paint Branch has a big group of people who have attended over the years. Esther Nichols, with her husband Les, attended many years as the reps from PBUUC. Our Interim Minister, Virginia Knowles, was on the Board of the UNO and attended the seminars often. Others have included Tosha O'Neal and her daughter, Anastasia, Bert and Marj Donn, Rene McDonald, Nancy Boardman, Lowell and Marge Owens and our granddaughter, Maureen Zurla Sanders (5 times).

The UNO has a fund for making grants to those who want to attend. This year Sophie asked about this and was granted \$350 toward the cost of registration and transportation. The youth who attend sleep (?) at the large UU All Souls Church one subway stop from the UN Headquarters. Most meals are provided.

It is impossible to be depressed about the future of the earth after hearing from the young people from all over the U.S. and Canada. They are such an impressive batch of well-informed and optimistic people. Stay tuned for news about next April's seminars. The topic will be chosen early in the fall. For more information contact Marge Owens. lowellandmarge@verizon.net

Beacon House Academic Olympics

Over the past 20 years, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church has been a great supporter of the Beacon House Community Ministry. Beacon House is a non-profit, community based organization that provides tutoring, mentoring, cultural, athletic, recreational and nutritional programs to at-risk children, ages 5-18, who reside in and around the Edgewood Terrace community in Ward 5 of Washington, D.C.

Now is the opportunity to see Beacon House in action at the First Beacon House Academic Olympics & UU Challenge Grant Event:

Saturday, June 7 — 2 pm to 5 pm
Noyes Elementary School
2725 10th St. NE Washington, DC 20018

Come watch as Beacon House scholars square off in friendly games of knowledge and academic skills and support the Beacon House Camp Leap summer program! The Fund for UU Social Responsibility will award Beacon House \$10,000 if we match it with new gifts from Unitarian Universalist congregations and individual UUs. Meet Beacon House scholars and athletes and enjoy food and games. Questions? 202-529-7376 or beaconhousedc.org.

Barbara Clarke, Volunteer Coordinator
 Beacon House Community Ministry
 601 Edgewood St., NE, Suite 15
 Washington, DC 20017

Unity Sunday—May 4 at 4 pm First Unitarian Church of Baltimore

The Board of Trustees and Ministers of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore cordially invite you to attend the Union Service on UU Unity Sunday, May 4, 2014 at 4 pm. Our keynote speaker will be Rev. Tom Schade, UU minister and blogger at "The Lively Tradition" tomschade.com. There he comments on the intersection of UUism and current events. Rev. Shade's address is titled "Flip the Script and Write a New Story." Tom serves on the CENTER committee of the UU Ministers Association, and leads the implementation team of "UUMA Connect," the portal for online continuing education resources and collaboration opportunities for UUMA members. "UUMA Connect" will go online on May 1, 2014.

The service begins with special music at 3:45 pm. Choirs joining the mass choir will rehearse at 2 pm. Ministers and seminarians are invited to join the grand procession. Please arrive by 3:30 p.m. to robe and process. This service celebrates the anniversary Rev. William Ellery Channing's address "Unitarian Christianity" in May 1819 at the ordination and installation of our first minister, Rev. Jared Sparks. Looking forward to welcoming you on May 4.

In and Around Paint Branch



STEWARDSHIP

As we write this update the ongoing annual Stewardship campaign is just one week from its official end. To date we have received pledges totaling over \$290,000 from 108 individuals and families with about another 25 or so pledges still expected to

come in before the end of April. We will announce the official numbers in the June edition of Branches, but we already have surpassed the total amount pledged last year. We are very grateful to all the members and friends of PBUUC who have generously made this year's annual campaign a great success. We are especially thankful for the tireless efforts of the Stewardship Committee members, Visiting Stewards, and many other volunteers who helped to make our "Helping Hands, Loving Hearts" campaign a memorable one.

Mike McMenamin & Chris Evans
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

Save the Date: Saturday, June 14 PBUUC's First Annual Loving Day Celebration!!

A celebration of the beauty of all families: Loving Day celebrations throughout the country commemorate the anniversary of Loving v. Virginia

(1967), the Supreme Court decision that legalized interracial marriage in the United States. This Supreme Court decision was a stepping stone to marriage equality for all.

Loving Day fights racial prejudice through education and builds multicultural community. PBUUC will be hosting its own Loving Day cookout and dance party! Join us Saturday, June 14 (more details in next month's issue of BRANCHES).



Women's Group May Meeting

The Women's Group will visit the National Arboretum on Saturday, May 31. We will meet at the church at 10 am and car pool or you may meet us at the Arboretum at 11. If we get at least 10 participants, a guided tour will be arranged of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, the National Herb Garden, the Administration Building terrace and the pool and the Friendship Garden. Bring a picnic lunch and we will picnic at the National Grove of Trees. Snacks and beverages are available at the Arbor House Gift Shop if you forget.

Please contact Lynn Louison @ 301-706-5394 or getnsyncpt@gmail.com for more info and to sign up.

Chinese dogwood, mountain-laurels, southern magnolias, sweet bay, lilies, old garden roses, herbs, herbaceous peonies, and fringe-tree are expected to be in bloom that weekend as well as rhododendrons and late azaleas.



Juneteenth Seder - June 14

The second annual Juneteenth Seder will be held on Saturday, June 14, at 6 pm, in the Meeting House. The evening will feature music, poetry, first-person narratives, and historical records that commemorate June 19, 1865, when the slaves of Galveston Island, Texas, learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863.

Tickets will be sold following worship services on June 1 and June 8: adults and children 12 or over, \$15, children 3-11, \$5, children under 3, free. 36 tickets will be available for sale. Only payment will serve as your reservation.

For more information, contact Leo Jones at 301-776-1175 or s.leo.jones@gmail.com.

In and Around Paint Branch, continued

ETHNIC DINNER SPASIBO!

There was a lot of discussion regarding the theme for what turned out to be the Russian Ethnic Dinner. In the end it was her being in the spotlight as the host of the, then, upcoming 2014 Winter Olympics that had us choosing Russia 13 years after our dinner featuring the Soviet Republics. But, as we progressed through the menu planning and 3 weeks of ticket selling, the Olympics happened, as did the Ukrainian rebellion, and Putin's controversial response to that. As a result, our perspective on Russia by the night of the dinner (March 22) was far different than it had been just weeks earlier.

Ethnic Dinners are about people, culture and food, not politics. But in this case, what was happening could not be ignored. So, thank you first to James Alexander for sharing his Russian political expertise and explaining the situation to us. Mike Stark and Sonja Meredith found some Georgian wines and of course, vodka, some of which was provided by Tess Morrison. They setup the bar and tended it all evening. Setup for the rest of the room was done by Don & Beth Henderson, Truett Briggs, Tess Morrison, Donovan Bynes, and unknown others who helped, but didn't sign the Volunteer sheet. Ethelyn Bishop tended the door. Cooks included Don and Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Chris Evans, Kathi & Brian Yu, Cathy Helmold, Wendy Schlegel, Jeri Holloway, Marilyn Pearl, Jane Trout, Penny O'Brien, Tess Morrison, Kathy Kearns, Jennifer Wright and Melissa Graham. Music was contributed by Marilyn Pearl, Tess Morrison, and Richard Côté. Don Gerson took photographs and Tess Morrison provided some Russian artifacts. Clean up was done by Kathy Kearns (supervising the dishwasher), Tess Morrison, Kathi, Fenwick & Brian Yu, Nancy Boardman, Wendy Schlegel & Don Moore, Chris Evans, Truett Briggs, Cathy Helmold, Mike Stark & Sonja Meredith, Don Gerson & Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Marcie Washburn, Paty Daukantas, Nick Wizoreck, and Marilyn Pearl. My apologies to anyone I missed, but if your name is not on the Volunteer list I have to rely on memory or quickly taken notes in the midst of all the activity. And thank you finally to all who visited the leftover sale. This dinner netted \$679.50

Although this dinner was sparsely attended, it resulted in some gratifying responses. Don Henderson, who spent time in Russia was "surprised that the food at our dinner

was so good!" James Alexander was happy "to see so much good bread on the menu." Kudos to Jeri Holloway for baking some of that. One person expressed surprise that we "even had caviar!" C'mon, it was Russia! How could we not? Our committee obtained a new member, Tess Morrison who worked so hard and did so much for this, her first Ethnic Dinner. And, there were several requests for recipes, about which I would like to make a suggestion. If you like a dish at an Ethnic Dinner well enough to want the recipe, telling me is great, but if you actually want to receive it, please request it by email so I don't forget who asked for what, and have an email address to send it to.

This dinner was held in March after we dropped February from the schedule. The number of snow events this past winter demonstrate why. Therefore, we won't schedule a dinner in May, but are discussing having one in July, perhaps El Salvador. This is still uncertain. I have another "grandkid trip" coming in July (has to be while they're not in school), so will be under time constraints. How much can be done while I'm not around is up to those of you who are willing to step up. After 64 dinners, you should have some idea how it's done! Contact me, Marilyn Pearl at 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

TWedHUULK Will Break Chapatis Together at the Jewel of India May 21 at 1 pm

TWedHUULK (Third Wednesday Handy UU Lunch Klub) will meet at the attractive, rather new restaurant in the Hillandale Shopping Center bounded by Powder Mill Road just north of the New Hampshire Ave. exit from the Beltway.



If you have never been there you will be surprised at the full buffet, moderate prices, and beautiful decorations. We can also order from the menu. Plus there is endless parking. If you need a ride or can offer a ride to someone please contact Marge Owens at lowelland-marge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572. If you enter from Powder Mill Road just proceed to the first intersection within the shopping center and look to your right. There is an arresting sign above the entrance to the restaurant.

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, and if requested, an email specific to individual PBUUC committees, groups, or teams can be created.

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 an 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

EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG

(301) 937-3666

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