



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

December 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.

DECEMBER 7

ALREADY HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Beth Charbonneau, with Carol Boston, Worship Associate

For many of us, the holiday season can give rise to a very strong longing for home--whether we conceive of that as an actual or idealized place. The teachings of Vietnamese Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh have much to say about those yearnings. Join PBUUC member Beth Charbonneau in exploring the possibility that we are already home for the holidays as she shares perspectives as a Buddhist and psychotherapist.

DECEMBER 14

HOLIDAY CHOIR SERVICE

The Choir led by David Chapman, Music Director; Rev. Russ Savage; and Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate
Join us for this traditional joyous service of holiday music. The choir will offer works for both Christmas and Hanukkah, and all will join in singing familiar Christmas carols

DECEMBER 21

YULE

Guest speaker Katherine Earle; with Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate

On this shortest day of the year, people use this time for introspection, reflection, and family. The Norse tradition believes in "a gift for a gift." As we give our congregation the gift of support and fellowship, we will ask the gods for a gift in return as the wheel of the year turns. *Followed by our Annual Holiday Meal.*



DECEMBER 24

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND CAROL SERVICES

THE OFFERING AT BOTH WILL SUPPORT WARM NIGHTS

4:30 PM

ALL-AGES SERVICE WITH LIVING NATIVITY

Rev. Russ Savage and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; with Worship Associate Van Summers, the Children's Choir, and Chalice Dancers

The Christmas story will unfold in a spirited, no-rehearsal nativity pageant. Wear your own barn animal, angel, shepherd or Magi costume, or one of ours, or just watch and be enthralled. The service will end with the traditional candlelight ceremony.

8:00 PM

JOYFUL SINGING IN SOLEMN STILLNESS

Rev. Russ Savage with Worship Associate Noel Monardes, the Choir, and Chalice Dancers

Come, hear carols familiar and carols new, stories old and stories true. Sense the calm settling in around us on this dark night, the angels bending to sing "Peace on Earth, to all good will." The service will end with the traditional candlelight ceremony.



DECEMBER 28

KWANZAA: AN ALL AGES DAY OF CELEBRATION, ASSESSMENT AND FEASTING

Carmelita Carter-Sykes with Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Education; Worship Associate Bettie Young, and the Chalice Dancers

This service sponsored by our Diversity/Anti Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will feature traditional music and rituals, drumming, stories, creation of art and the Chalice Dancers. In the Kwanzaa tradition of assessment as part of this end of year celebration, PBUUC members and friends will examine "Selma Then, Ferguson Now." The service will be followed immediately by the Kwanzaa Sharing Feast. *This is an All Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to remain in the Meetinghouse for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest provided in Room 5.*

Table of Contents

December Sunday Services	Page 1	Social Action Committee (SAC)	Page 6	aUUction 2014 nets \$19,074	Page 7
PBUUC Leadership Directory	Page 2	Special Collections Update	Page 6	Holiday Craft Fair, Dec. 14th	Page 7
Minister's Page	Page 3	Support for the Purple Line	Page 6	Original Fiberart in the MH	Page 8
Our Caring Community	Page 3	Upcoming SAC Meetings	Page 6	Mitten Tree Collections	Page 8
Wheel of Life	Page 3	Escalating Inequality	Page 6	TWedHUULK	Page 8
December We Care Coordinator	Page 3	PB Community Learning Center	Page 6	Women's Group Cookie Exchange	Page 8
Board of Trustees Column	Page 4	Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team	Page 7	PBUUC Holiday Meal	Page 8
Our Enduring Gratitude	Page 4	DARTT November Meeting	Page 7	Candle Dance on Christmas Eve	Page 8
Stewardship Committee	Page 4	Walk Toward Trouble	Page 7	PBUUC 60th Anniversary Dinner	Page 9
Meet Our New Member	Page 4	DARTT December Meeting	Page 7	PBUUC Bookstore Returns	Page 9
Religious Exploration	Page 5	Wider UU Universe	Page 7	Amazon Smile Reminder	Page 9
Denominational Affairs	Page 5	In and Around Paint Branch	Page 7	Note to Readers & Holiday Hours	Page 10

PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2014-2015 🌀

Chair	Theresa Myrdon
Vice Chair	John Barr
Vice Chair	Melody Lawrence
Trustee	Liz Citrin
Trustee	Peter Dowling
Trustee	Wendy Schlegel
Trustee	Carol Carter Walker
Secretary	Shantida
Assistant Secretary	Tess Morrison
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

Genie Ahearn (2014-15)	Van Summers (2014-17)
Carol Boston (2013-16)	Carol Carter Walker (2014-17)
Jonathan Mawdsley (2012-15)	Bettie Young (2012-15)
Noel Monardes (2013-16)	

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

Fran Caughey
Melody Lawrence

🌀 Chartered Committees & Task Forces 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
	Jane Trout (Visual Arts)
Auction	Mark Shute
Budget Leadership Team	Theresa Myrdon
Buildings & Grounds	Lowell Owens
Capital Campaign	Peter Wathen-Dunn
DARTT (co-chairs)	Carol Carter Walker
	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson
Electronic Communications	contact church office
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl
Finance	Patty Daukantas
Green Team (co-chairs)	Penny O'Brien & Will Snyder
Leasing	Church Office
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Membership	Polly Pettit
Ministry	Susannah Schiller
Nominating	Muriel Morisey
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration (co-chairs)	Patricia Most & Elizabeth Porter
Site Improvement	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Social Action	Nancy Boardman
Sustaining Our Ministry	SOM@pbuuc.org
Stewardship	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	Jeri Holloway
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Marj Donn
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	Katherine Earle
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	Pat Behenna
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Wendy Schlegel
Women's Retreat	Wendy Schlegel

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tues), Will Snyder (Wed), Alice Tyler (Thur)

🌀 Staff 🌀

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

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert
Interim Caretaker Minister	Rev. Russ Savage
Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration	Dayna Edwards
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Alexis Saunders
Bookkeeper	Debra McCann
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Romeo Ndonfak
	Wyatt Rexach
Child Care Providers:	Beth Judy
	Jazmin Balbuena
	Milan Monardes

Minister's Page

From Rev. Russ Savage:

Back when he was mayor of New York City, Ed Koch used to go around with a big smile asking, "How am I doing?" This is a good question for an individual or an institution to ask, especially in times of change or unusual or stressful circumstances. So let's pause and ask ourselves (with a big smile), "How is PBUUC doing?" After all, we are in uncertain times with our minister out on disability and, although she is recovering nicely, uncertain exactly when she will return. It wouldn't be unreasonable to expect us to be confused and all out of whack.

But look how we're doing! Our worship services continue to be vibrant and well attended. The Worship Associates are doing a great job of carrying an extra load of planning and conducting services. The choirs, both adult and children's, add the joy of their voices to our services; the Chalice Dancers bring us grace and inspiration; and of course our faithful and talented Music Director David Chapman always amazes us with his talent. We've had some excellent visiting ministers, and I'm doing my part, too.

In Religious Exploration, 34 children and youth are registered and average Sunday attendance is 21. Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards has started a number of new initiatives: multi-generational Enrichment Hour activities so far this year have included Camp Beagle Sunday, a gathering in the glen, and a handicraft circle.

Our strong bias for social action continues with high energy. There are many examples, but the most visible is our Community Learning Center, in which we are providing instruction in English to people in the area whose employment and other prospects will improve as their English competency improves. Kudos to Carmelita Carter-Sykes and all those working on this.

We are holding our own among the churches of the UUA and the Joseph Priestley District (although we have the long-term challenge of restoring our Fair Share financial support status). We recently hosted a JPD Stewardship Workshop with people from churches all over the district in attendance. This month we're hosting the gathering of local UU ministers.

Six beautiful stained glass panels representing the six sources from which our faith draws wisdom and inspiration now hang in the windows in the rear of the sanctuary. They were created by Susannah Schiller. Thank you, Susannah! Diane and I are already talking about a sermon series based on these beautiful pieces of art.

Our annual auction was a great success! In addition to being lots of fun, it raised over \$19,000. Thanks to auction chairman Mark Shute, all who contributed items, all who bought them, the Chalice Dancers and other entertainers, and all those who worked so hard to make this a successful PBUUC event.

So how are we doing? Judge for yourself. I think we're doing just fine.

See you in church!

Russ,

Rev. Russ Savage
Interim Caretaker Minister
ICM@pbuuc.org



Our Caring Community



WHEEL OF LIFE

Our minister Diane Teichert has visited PBUUC Sunday services several times since her stroke; reliable spies report seeing her at other UU churches in the area from time to time. Mary Tyrtle Rooker's sister Virginia lost her ex-husband. John Holbrook underwent successful surgery at Washington Adventist Hospital and has started regular dialysis treatments; it was good to see him back in church. Kay McGraw sends thanks for all the cards and good wishes she received while recovering from surgery; good to see her back in church, too! Sarah and Jeff Firestone are grateful that their son Owen arrived on the scene one year ago. Ebeth Porter can hardly believe her sons Caleb and Silas are growing up so fast; they recently turned 13 and 4. Jennifer Grant enjoyed visiting and dancing with the Chalice Dancers although she enjoys the warmth of her home in Florida. Peter Wathen-Dunn and Muriel Morisey celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary! Milan Monardes turned 16, and Montana Monardes received 3rd Place and 1st Place awards at the National Press Club for two videos he made. Meg Waugh remembers her daughter who died at age 26 and would have been 60 recently. Lynn Johnson and Shantida share joy at a visit of Shantida's daughter from sunny Florida. Jeri Holloway is back at last from travels which took her to California, Turkey, Greece, California again, and finally back home; she attended her mother's memorial service and reports that it was a beautiful mixture of her mother's Christian Science beliefs and Jeri's UU perspective.

—Rev. Russ Savage.

The We Care Coordinator for December is Fran Caughey.

Please contact her if you, or a PBUUCer you know, is in need of meals; rides to church or medical appointments; visits; or cards. You can call her at 301-776-9648.

Board of Trustees Column

Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Winter Holiday season to everyone. Right now I'm grateful that the Board of Trustees has a signed contract to replace our Meeting House doors! They will be wired for handicapped access and should be much easier for everyone to open. Peter Dowling and Lowell Owens ordered them and let the Board know that they will be here in approximately five weeks. I can't help but think that new doors will make a wonderful Holiday Present!

Last month, the Board asked the Building and Grounds committee to collect comments and views from the Green Team, SAC, and the Congregation regarding the request to install a cell phone tower on church grounds. Comments were received from many different groups and individuals across the Church Community, including RE, Green Team, SAC, and Buildings and Grounds. The feedback was unanimous in opposition, so the Board voted to reject the proposed cell phone tower.

Continuing the discussion of Buildings & Grounds, the Board of Trustees last year voted to install security cameras to monitor the RE Building Doors and Office due to the multiple break-ins and thefts. This was completed and stickers will be posted on the doors informing everyone that they are being monitored. We sincerely hope that we will never need this system and wanted to make the Congregation aware that should something happen the storage is very limited for the system so incidents would need to be reported immediately. The Board is working to incorporate a policy about this in our update of the policies for the Church.

If you've seen the Church calendar, you've noticed both the Executive Committee and Board meetings are now starting at 7 pm. I ask that if you have any business for the Board to please let me know by the Executive Committee meeting so we can build sufficient time into the agenda to address your concerns.

We hope you have a happy winter holiday, be it Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanzaa!

Theresa Myrdon
Chair, Board of Trustees

Our Enduring Gratitude

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church Expresses Its Enduring Gratitude to Esther Nichols

Paint Branch UU's Enduring Gratitude Plaque is not an acknowledgment of success or completion of a project. It is not even a thank-you for a job well done. Our plaque, hanging in the Meeting House foyer, commemorates service so far above all expectations that it must never be forgotten. The plaque honors people who, through their extraordinary work, have earned our enduring gratitude.

Esther Nichols has been nominated by the congregation and elected by the Board of Trustees to our Enduring Gratitude Plaque. For more than twenty-five years, Esther has organized, cooked, delivered and served chili for each meal we have contributed to the Community Café's homeless. Esther has helped to feed thousands.

Stewardship Committee

Your Stewardship Committee is already hard at work on next year's annual campaign. On Saturday, November 1st, we hosted the Joseph Priestly District Fall Stewardship Workshop at PBUUC. Twenty participants from six area UU congregations attended a full day of training and idea sharing on a variety of stewardship topics. We picked up some great ideas that we are working into our planning efforts now. We can always use a few more helping hands. If you are interested in being a Stewardship volunteer at Paint Branch please talk to either of us.

Chris Evans & Mike McMenamin
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

Meet Our New Member

Margaret McLellan joined PBUUC on April 6, 2014, after attending on and off for two or three years. Originally from the New Brunswick province of Canada, Margaret moved with her family to College Station, Texas, when she was six years old. There, her parents joined a Unitarian fellowship. They moved to Northern Virginia when she was 12 and became members of the UU Church of Arlington.



She currently lives in Colesville and has been there about seven years. She enjoys the outdoors, including hiking, gardening, and anything with the water. Margaret participates in the Quest Discussion Group at Paint Branch, where philosophical issues are explored through selected readings. She has a master's degree in food nutrition and is a registered dietician focused on diabetes. Her husband is a biochemist and they have two adult sons who are both engineers. One of her sons lives in Pittsburgh, and the other in Houston. Welcome, Margaret!

Submitted by Renée Katz on behalf of the Membership Team

Religious Exploration

As I write this newsletter article, we are about to embark on the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. In this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in meeting family obligations, the desire to please others, and fulfill the material wishes of all of your loved ones. I write this article to encourage you to think of the holiday season in another way.

What would happen if you decided to hand-make your gifts this year? What would happen if you only went to events that left you feeling spiritually full? What would happen if took ten minutes each day during this crazy season and did nothing?

Last year, I decided to find out the answers to these questions for myself. The Center for the New American Dream was the inspiration behind my decision to simplify my holidays. I encourage you to check out their website <http://newamericandream.org> for really practical tips on how to bring meaning back into your holiday season. Prior to last year, I had felt completely drained and “grinchy” about the holidays. It seemed like December was just a chance for the world to add ten more items to an already full to-do list. It was time for me to re-assess my experience and start to match my actions with my values. The results were fascinating! I found that no one’s head exploded because I said, “no thank you,” to attending their event. In fact, by attending the events for which I felt totally engaged and invested, I deepened relationships with the people closest to me. I found that people really appreciated my handmade gifts – perhaps even more than store-bought gifts. I am still working on finding ten minutes each day to do nothing, but perhaps a bit less time on social media will help me with that.

I have found the most fulfillment in the making of handmade gifts and “upcycling.” Throughout the year I have used pinterest.com to collect ideas on handmade gifts, simplifying the holidays and upcycling. (you can see my pins at <https://www.pinterest.com/daynaedwards1/diy-gifts/>) Upcycling is taking an item in your house (or from a thrift store or garage sale) and repurposing it into something prettier, or cooler than the original. It is a great way to reduce waste and affirm my values of living a sustainable life. More importantly, it is totally kid-friendly and something the whole family can do together. In fact, the more people who are involved, the more presents you can make at one time.

This year, I will share some of these ideas with our children and youth in the RE program. In our Chapel for Change on November 30, we will make chalices from upcycled plates and bowls and cups and we will make mandalas by upcycling old CDs. With the youth, I will show them how to make their own lotions and sugar and salt scrubs to give as gifts.

Let’s work together as a community to make the holidays full of meaning and less full of “stuff.” I can’t wait to hear how you are going to simplify the holidays this season. Post your ideas on the PBUUC Facebook page, email me, or share one of your own Pinterest boards with me. Together, in community, we can support each other in simplifying the holidays.

Yours In Faith, *Dayna Edwards*,
Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Denominational Affairs

During the annual UUA Certification of Membership process, PBUUC has been asked to submit a Congregational Poll. This year's poll asks for us to vote on putting the proposed Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Reproductive Justice on the Final Agenda for the 2015 General Assembly. In order for the SOC on Reproductive Justice to appear on the Final Agenda, at least twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote, and a majority of those must vote in favor of placing the proposed SOC on the Final Agenda. Delegates at GA will be able to amend the SOC, and will also hear debate and vote on whether to approve the proposed SOC.

As background, delegates at the 2012 General Assembly selected “Reproductive Justice” to be the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. As we complete the third year of this CSAI, the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) of the UUA has prepared a Draft SOC from information gathered over the past two years. We are being asked to comment on this document, and to decide if its adoption should be on the Agenda for the 2015 GA. We are not asked to approve the document as it stands; it surely will be changed, but we are being asked to vote on continuing the process toward eventually adopting a satisfactory SOC.

Separately, we are invited to submit comments on the new Congregational Study/Action Issue, Escalating Inequality, and the related Study Guide. The deadline to submit comments on Escalating Inequality is March 2, 2015.

At the 2014 General Assembly in Providence, RI, delegates selected Escalating Inequality to be the 2014-2018 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). We are now in the first year of this CSAI and are prepared to begin the study process leading to the eventual drafting of a SOC. We are being asked to submit comments on this new CSAI and the materials made available to us by the UUA. Please note that our Social Action Committee has already begun study of this CSAI.

I have all of the material referred to above: the Proposed SOC on Reproductive Justice, the Study Guide on Escalating Inequality, and the specific forms for submitting comments on both. If you are interested, please request these forms from me at: donauldgerson@yahoo.com. And please follow up by forwarding your comments to me.

I plan to hold a meeting to finalize our comments in early January. In the meantime, I’d like to assemble both a list of interested members and a list of comments so that we’ll have something to work on at that meeting. Thank you for your interest and participation.

Donald J. Gerson, DA Committee Chair

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Special Collection for the Homeless

If you've been around a while, you've probably noticed that once a month we have a special collection to benefit some worthwhile cause. The recipient for our special collection in December is always the homeless, through our own "Warm Nights Program," when homeless people stay in our Meeting House for a week. Although our week to house the homeless is going to move to a later month, we will still have our fundraising for it in December, and, specifically, on Christmas Eve! We will not have envelopes as usual, because the whole Offering for both the early and the later services will go to help the homeless. Please contribute as generously as you can.

In Support of the Proposed Purple Line

Social Action Committee (SAC) Members Attended Purple Line Community Compact Workshops in October and November - Having Voted to Join this Coalition at SAC's October Meeting.

The Compact is a broad coalition of churches, community organizations, nonprofits, small businesses, and labor organizations. It will set specific goals for promoting local jobs, ensuring affordable housing, and protect small businesses in the wake of Purple Line construction. The Compact is being developed in a series of community workshops in which county residents in Montgomery and Prince George's counties and stakeholders can define their priorities. At the November 17th meeting work continued on a draft Compact – with a final draft to be published on-line in the near future. SAC members learned about this Purple Line Community Compact during their September visit to the Housing Initiatives Partnership (HIP) and will keep abreast of its development as a supporter by attending its workshops. SAC members who have attended workshops to date are Nancy Boardman, Marj Donn, Marge Owens, and Janet Overton. Progress on the Compact will continue to be updated at SAC monthly meetings.

Upcoming Social Action Committee (SAC) Meetings:

December's meeting will be on Saturday, December 20 in Room 4 from 10 am – 12:30 pm.

For January the meeting has been changed to Saturday, January 31, 2015 (from January 24) in Room 4 from 10 am – 12:30 pm. We made this change to avoid an overlap with CLC Teacher training also scheduled for January 24.

Escalating Inequality

December 6th Briefing Being Held by the Unitarians Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) at the Washington Ethical Society for Regional UU Social Justice Leaders.

This urgent topic was chosen at this year's General Assembly as a Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for the coming four years. The UUA Study Guide is now available to help focus education and advocacy activities on this important issue of economic justice. This briefing will be helping congregations get a jumpstart on how to take this topic and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it and take action on it – each in their own way. Resources available through the UUA will be shared and the guest speaker will be Jessica Halperin from the Witness Ministries Office of the UUA. From Paint Branch Deb Rubenstein, our Economic Justice Coordinator, and Nancy Boardman, SAC Chair, will attend this briefing. They look forward to working with other regional UU churches and the UUA to bring back ideas for our continuing work on this urgent issue.



PAINT BRANCH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER MOVES INTO SECOND TERM

It's hard to believe that we are winding down our second term of English language classes at PBUUC. We registered 21 new students for this fall term with more people coming in each Sunday to ask about how and when they can participate. We hope that now is the time you are asking yourself how and when you can participate in our ESL program. We are looking for people to serve as teachers, assistants, registrars and distributors of flyers. Training for volunteer teachers and assistants will be on Saturday January 24, 2015 with breakfast and lunch served. Registration will be on January 18 and 25, 2015. Kudos to our second term volunteer teachers and assistants: James Alexander, Jim Behenna, Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Carol Carter Walker, Lynn Johnson, Bekki Ow Arhus, Lucette Smoes, Mea Whittle, and Kathi Yu. Thanks to those PBUUC members and friends who helped with registration: Nancy Boardman, Carol Boston, Chris Evans, Emma Sue Gaines, Kathy Kearns, Melody Lawrence, and Rosie Rexach. Contact: cartercarmelita@aol.com or 202 236-8783 to volunteer. Thanks.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team



DARTT Meeting Saturday, November 29 from 10 am to 12 Noon

DARTT's November monthly meeting will be held Saturday, November 29 from 10 am to 12 noon 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. We'll be discussing the PBUUC annual Kwanzaa Service and Potluck and working on our calendar of Reverberations for the rest of the year.

Walk Toward Trouble

Sister Simone Campbell, organizer of "Nuns on the Bus," made a passionate call for Unitarian Universalists (UUs) to "walk toward trouble" when she addressed the 2014 General Assembly of UUA delegates in June 2014. UUs have been walking toward trouble in their response to the killing of Michael Brown and its aftermath in Ferguson, Missouri, as well as other social and racial justice issues, including immigration, income inequality, mass incarceration and voter suppression. The current UUA World, our denominational magazine, mailed bi-monthly to all members, has a perspective on Ferguson vis a vis Selma. The December 28 Kwanzaa Service will reflect on the Selma/Ferguson Connection. The UUA initiative, 'Standing On the Side of Love,' which you can access on the uua.org website, has information about the initiatives of many UUA congregations, in partnership, with other churches and advocacy organizations related to the Ferguson killing. Many churches around the country are organizing for a post-grand jury announcement gathering the same night or the next. We will be bringing you information about what local UU groups are doing.

Two social media groups have sprung up that you can join by searching for them on Facebook:

Are UU Awake? This group has been recently formed for the purpose of addressing issues related to racial injustice and privilege within our Unitarian Universalist denomination.

UUs Resisting Jim Crow and Mass Incarceration. This is a movement that was formally begun at this year's General Assembly. (I love the word, 'resisting.')

Watch this space and the Bulletin for more information about how you can "walk toward trouble" to form the Beloved Community.

by Carol Carter Walker, co-Chair,
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting Saturday, December 13

DARTT's December monthly meeting will be Saturday, December 13 from 1 pm to 3 pm in Room 4, Religious Exploration Building. DARTT's mission is to facilitate the congregation's intentional multiculturalism through exchanges of personal experiences and other focused activities. 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 UU Universe

Winter Solstice Vespers Service on Sunday, December 21, 2014 at Cedar Lane UU Church chapel

Organized by Members of Journeywomen & Friends

Music Provided by: Margaret K. Turner on Baroque Blockflute & Vera Kochanowsky (founder of Carmina and Illuminare) on Harpsichord.

The winter solstice marks the longest night of the year and the start of the lengthening days. Come join a vespers celebration with music, accompanied by readings of the mystery of darkness and the joy of light. Following the service, seasonal refreshments will be served. Optional cash-only donations for Beacon House and the musicians are welcome.

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

9601 Cedar Lane Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4099
301-493-8300 <http://cedarlane.org/>

In and Around Paint Branch

Do When the Spirit Says Do aUUction Raises Net of \$19,074 for PBUUC!

It's all been totaled and tallied:
The Silent Auction, Live Auction,
50/50 Raffle, Thai Dinner, Bar,
Desserts, Jewelry, Bread and Handcraft Boutiques contributed 5 percent of PBUUC's operating budget for the year.



PBUUC aUUction 2014

Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, entertainers, donors and bidders who made this another very successful PBUUC event. A special thanks to Mark Shute, who as aUUction 2014 Team Leader, pulled it all (and kept it all) together!

HUZZAH!

Holiday Craft Fair, December 14th

Please mark your calendars for the annual PBUUC craft fair to be held on Sunday, December 14 at 11:30-12:30 in the Sanctuary. Contact Tina Van Pelt at cvanpeltah@aol.com or 301-642-8320 if you would like to participate as a crafter. We request a 20% donation of proceeds to PBUUC.

In and Around Paint Branch, cont.

Original Fiberart by Rhoda Taylor

Our current exhibitor is Rhoda Taylor, a western Pennsylvania artist who works mainly with fabric. She has drawn, painted, sewed fabric, knitted, crocheted, embroidered, and done some form of arts and crafts as long as she can remember. Following retirement from her career as a university professor of biology she took several quilting classes, fell in love with commercially available fabrics, and felt compelled to make fabric wall hangings. She joined the Fiber Arts Guild of Pittsburgh and began taking a number of workshops from nationally known artists through the Guild, the Pittsburgh Society for Contemporary Craft, the Nancy Crow Timber Frame Barn in Ohio, and Quilt University (online), in which she has learned a variety of techniques to use in designing her own fabrics and works of fabric art.

As a biologist, Rhoda is fascinated by the patterns and colors which occur in nature and produces patterns on fabric by hand dyeing, bleach discharge, and rust-printing, and is delighted with the results. One of the most exciting things to her is ironing the damp dyed, discharged or rust-printed fabrics and seeing the wonderful marks and patterns develop almost serendipitously! She then "paints" with these patterned fabrics, assembling and stitching them and complementary commercial fabrics into works of art. She sometimes incorporates digital images into her art work as well and has been having fun embellishing coffee filters with a variety of materials.

This exhibit will be on display through Sunday, January 18. There will be a reception that day following the service. The artist will be present. All are invited.

Jane Trout, Visual Arts Committee



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MITTEN TREE?

Yes, Virginia, there will be a Mitten Tree this year at PBUUC. We have had a tradition for many years of contributing warm winter clothing to the homeless and to children who don't have mittens or caps to wear when the weather gets really cold. After the service on December Sundays, there will be items for sale in the foyer. Please stop by the Handcraft Table and make a selection. You can also buy for yourself or as gifts. (All the money we make goes to the general fund of the church.) Or you can buy items for the "Mitten Tree" commercially and bring them on Sunday, December 21. There will be much more than mittens -- scarves, caps, sometimes socks, slippers, etc. For more information, call Marj Donn at 301-474-1353.

Join TWedHUULK for Lunch Wednesday, December 17 at 1 pm at Siri's Chef's Secret

The Third Wednesday Handy Unitarian Universalist Lunch Klub will again celebrate the holiday season at the Thai/American place on Greenbelt Road just before Beltway Plaza Shopping Center next to a new Dunkin Donut shop. It's on the left as you drive east toward the Beltway entrance. We will be in the semi-separate space so we will be able to have a good conversation.

There is plenty of parking. The menu is half American and half Thai and prices are reasonable. Please contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572, if you need a ride or if you can give a ride to someone else.

December is Cookie Exchange Time

On Sunday, December 14, the PBUUC Women's Group will hold its second annual Cookie Exchange during Enrichment Hour in the Kelley Room. All are welcome!

Bring three dozen of your favorite holiday cookies (two dozen to share, and another dozen for us to sample at the exchange), along with the recipe and a container for taking home a collection of everyone's favorite cookies! Yum.

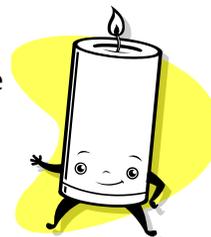
If you can't bring homemade cookies, feel free to join us anyway. Bring store-bought cookies, or just join us for the company (and samples). Questions? Contact Susannah Schiller at 443-956-7554 or susannah@comcast.net.

The PBUUC Annual Holiday Meal

The Holidays are almost here! One of the fun events in the planning is our Annual PBUUC Holiday Meal. This will be held on Sunday, December 21 after the service. We need your help to make this dinner happen. Please sign up in the foyer after the service to help us. Tickets will be on sale every Sunday in December before the meal. Please contact Melody Lawrence or sign up in the foyer to become an elf. Just like Santa, we will need sooooo many! (MGandML@verizon.net or 301-379-3864).



Our Christmas Eve service often includes a candle dance, and this year it will be "One Candle". The Chalice Dancers would like to invite youth (4th grade and older) and adults to participate as well. The movements are not difficult, but you do need to attend at least one rehearsal, either our regular Saturday morning rehearsals (9:30, December 6 or 20) or immediately after a Sunday church service (December 21). You may choose to dance at the 4:30 pm or 8 pm service (or both). Please contact Sharon Werth at 301-779-7556 or sbodul@comcast.net to let her know that you will be coming, or to ask questions. We look forward to dancing with you!



In and Around Paint Branch, cont.

PBUUC 60th ANNIVERSARY ETHNIC DINNER ALL WRAPPED UP!

Every Ethnic Dinner starts with the same check list of tasks to be accomplished in a certain order – set a date, pick a theme, hold a menu meeting, do publicity, sell tickets, and so on, enhanced by the different-for-every-dinner aspects related to the selected theme. But, occasionally we decide to do something so different, that even the routine stuff may be changed.

We always do a dinner in October, but this was no ordinary October; this was PBUUC's 60th October, and Diane wanted us to do something to celebrate our anniversary. Would that happen, would plans include (as the 50th anniversary had) an Ethnic Dinner, what date and, what theme? Then Diane was hospitalized, no further mention made of a 60th anniversary, and all the questions still unanswered. We still had a dinner to plan, but couldn't schedule a date or pick a theme without knowing. I asked the Board to please discuss this and let me know! Finally, a decision! Yes to the anniversary, yes to the Ethnic Dinner, and the date, October 18 (my birthday, but OK). Now we needed a theme. What would be appropriate for such an occasion? The answer lay in a suggestion I had previously turned down. Carol Carter Walker noticed many dishes of the world are comprised of one food wrapped around another food. My response, "Too many different ethnic tastes for one dinner." But this dinner was not to be about one country or one region; it was about PBUUC. Our mission of Intentional Multiculturalism seemed the most obvious link between the church and the dinners, and wrapped foods are something common to many cultures. I emailed this suggestion, a few others, and an invitation for additional ideas to the Ethnic Dinner committee. All their responses were limited to ideas for dishes for this one theme; no mention of anything else. Therefore our theme would be "Multiculturalism, All Wrapped Up"!

So, thanks first to Carol for the suggestion. Then to Cathy Helmold, Chris Evans, and Margaret McLellan for

attending the menu meeting and helping come up with a very different menu. My daughter Lynn Hoffman inadvertently found the ticket design. She'd used the picture of hands of different races encircling the Earth in something for her job, and posted it on Face Book. "That's it!" I told her, so she created the tickets and posters.

Ticket sales were scheduled for September 29, October 5 & 12. On October 6 my nephew died in Gainesville FL. My three daughters and I knew we had to go there. "People at church will help you with the dinner stuff," they said. "I know they will," I replied, "but first I have to think of everything, prepare what they'll need, get it to them, and explain everything!" Thanks to Dayna Edwards for transporting all the ticket-selling, volunteer-recruiting materials from Bowie to church, and to Cathy Helmold and Kathy Kearns for tending the ticket table on October 12.

Thanks to Don & Beth Henderson, Margaret McLellan & Ali Mohamed, Noel Monardes & Nancy Spande, Anita Williams, Eric Most, John Bartoli, and Tess Morrison who all came early to set up, Mike Stark & Sonja Meredith for their usual awesome bar expertise, and Ethelyn Bishop for tending the door. Cooks included Margaret McLellan & Ali Mohamed, Tricia & Eric Most, Tess Morrison, Kathi Yu, Marilyn Pearl, Beth Charbonneau, Lynn Louison, Melody Lawrence, Theresa Myrdon & Miles Ward, Cathy Helmold, Chris Evans, Penny O'Brien, Sandy Peavey, Alice Tyler, Elaine Shell & Ed Greville, and Kathy Kearns. The stuffed olives were purchased by Andy Myrup & Elizabeth Yanowitch and the baklava by Noel Monardes and Nancy Spande. Clean up under the direction of building manager Romeo Ndonfak, was done by Nancy Boardman, Penny O'Brien, Cathy Helmold, Elaine Shell & Ed Greville, Noel Monardes & Nancy Spande, Mike Stark & Sonja Meredith, Truett Briggs, Andy Myrup & Elizabeth Yanowitch, Kathi & Fenwick Yu, Eric & Ann Cardiff, Beth Charbonneau and Deron Lovaas. Thanks to some one for telling David Chapman, and to him for getting everyone to sing Happy Birthday to me. Wow!

Another big thank you to all who came to the leftover sale, and the many cooks who waived reimbursement. This dinner netted \$1,186.11!

Happy Birthday Paint Branch!

Paint Branch Bookstore Returns!

The Paint Branch UU Church Bookstore provides an opportunity for members and friends to purchase books for adults and children about and by Unitarian Universalists and others after Sunday Service. We'll also offer sales of books by our own authors. PBUUC earns a little bit of money for our operating budget mostly due to buying from the UUA Bookstore at discounted prices.

We will be open on the first Sunday of every month during the Fellowship Hour, right after Sunday Service. Stop by on January 4—our reopening day.

Submitted by *Marj Donn and Carol Carter Walker*

Don't Forget AmazonSmile at Holiday Time

AmazonSmile has replaced the selling of scrip as an ongoing fundraiser for Paint Branch UU Church. You can purchase holiday gifts or something you need or want and help PBUUC at the same time. This includes gift cards. You can just type AmazonSmile into your browser and you will be given simple instructions—very simple if you already have an Amazon.com account. Here is the link to the signup website. smile.amazon.com. PBUUC will receive .5% of every \$1 you spend on the Smile website. If you need assistance in signing up, please contact Dave Nation, Mark Shute or Carol Carter Walker.

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:

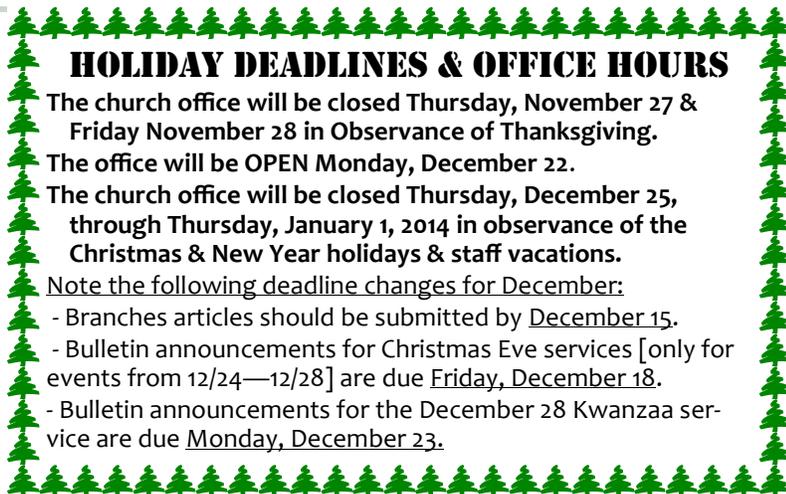
branches@pbuuc.org.

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 **200—600** words. Please submit the name of the author and any other contact information as necessary. **Reminder: Articles significantly over the word limit may be returned to the author for re-editing.**
- The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the Sunday Order of Service Bulletin is **every Wednesday at 12 noon**. Announcements received by the deadline will be sent to all email recipients of Branches.
- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** should be submitted in their final form to bulletin@pbuuc.org. 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.

**HOLIDAY DEADLINES & OFFICE HOURS**

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 27 & Friday November 28 in Observance of Thanksgiving.

The office will be OPEN Monday, December 22.

The church office will be closed Thursday, December 25, through Thursday, January 1, 2014 in observance of the Christmas & New Year holidays & staff vacations.

Note the following deadline changes for December:

- Branches articles should be submitted by December 15.
- Bulletin announcements for Christmas Eve services [only for events from 12/24—12/28] are due Friday, December 18.
- Bulletin announcements for the December 28 Kwanzaa service are due Monday, December 23.

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 Check here if you no longer wish to receive this mailing and return to PBUUC