



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

March 2015

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.

MARCH 1

HEY, THIS IS OUR BAY

UU Arlington visitors Dick Graham and Jane McKeel; with Worship Associate Noel Monardes; and Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards

Strong respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part—the 7th principle of our faith—fuels concern for the restoration efforts of the Chesapeake Watershed... and about a concerted attack on those crucial efforts at this very moment. Dick Graham and Jane McKeel developed this presentation in the form of a scripted television interview. *Learn more about our guest speakers on Page 4.*

MARCH 8

BUILDING OUR WAY TOGETHER

Rev. Diane Teichert and Rev. Russ Savage; with Worship Associate Bettie Young; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; the Choir; the Chalice Dancers; and the Children's Choir
Many people of faith are in Selma and Birmingham this weekend to observe the 50th anniversary of the 1965 March on Selma and to commit to continuing progress in multiculturalism and diversity. Today is also the kick-off of PBUUC's annual Stewardship Drive in which we make our commitments for financial support for the coming year. Diane and Russ will examine the parallels between these two observances and what they mean to us and our faith.

MARCH 15

LEARNING TO FLY

Debbie Cole, guest speaker, with Worship Associate Carol Carter-Walker and Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards

We may all confront our growing edges differently, but at one time or another we find ourselves reaching for a higher bar. It can be scary and exhilarating and all part of learning to fly. Come fly with our guest speaker this morning as she talks about reaching beyond our comfort zone and reaping the rewards of being fully engaged as an individual or as a congregation. *Learn more about our guest speakers on Page 4.*

MARCH 22

QUESTIONS OF ETHICS

Rev. Russ Savage, with Worship Associate Van Summers

Many situations we encounter in our complicated lives bring up questions of ethics. Just what is a question of ethics, and how is our response to ethical questions informed by our religious faith? Let us examine how reasonable persons might come to different answers on some of these difficult questions. *This is a Signing Sunday (see Page 4).*

MARCH 29

THE 10TH ANNUAL DANCE SERVICE: "AT THE STILL POINT ... THERE THE DANCE IS"

The Paint Branch Chalice Dancers, Sharon Werth, Director; with The Erika Thimey Dance Company; and Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate

We invite you to join us as we explore dance that comes from the still point, the meditative place inside us all. An excerpt from "Burnt Norton" in the "Four Quartets" by T. S. Elliot inspired the theme of this service
*****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 is provided in Room 5.*****

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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)
Auction	Jane Trout (Visual Arts)
Budget Leadership Team	Mark Shute
Buildings & Grounds	Theresa Myrdon
Capital Campaign	Lowell Owens
DARTT (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
Electronic Communications	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Ethnic Dinners	Don Gerson
Finance	contact church office
Green Team (co-chairs)	Marilyn Pearl
Leasing	Patty Daukantas
Legacy Fund	Penny O'Brien & Will Snyder
Membership	Church Office
Ministry	Ken Montville
Nominating	Polly Pettit
Personnel	Susannah Schiller
Religious Exploration (co-chairs)	Muriel Morisey
Site Improvement	Jim Flaherty
Social Action	Patricia Most & Elizabeth Porter
Sustaining Our Ministry	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Stewardship	Nancy Boardman
	SOM@pbuuc.org
	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	vacant
Community Café	Alice Tyler
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
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	Rene McDonald
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

Ministers Page

From Rev. Russ Savage:

As I write this in February, it is 19° and the ground outside the windows of the minister's office is covered with snow. It isn't a great deal warmer inside (well, OK, it's 58° but that feels really cold). We have been having some trouble with the heating system in the PBUUC offices and it is still trying to catch up. I find my cold fingers making lots of keyboard errors. (Let me know if you catch one I've missed.)

But in spite of how things are right now, I know spring is coming. I know the snow will melt, the trees will leaf out in green, and the birds will return. Being confident about this is an act of faith, based on experience of the past and hope for the future.

This is exactly what we are called upon to engage in during our annual Stewardship Drive this month—an act of faith. We look back with pride at what PBUUC has done in the community and the world, and we look forward with hope and anticipation about what it will do in the future. But unlike the spring, which is going to come despite what we do, the future of PBUUC is dependent upon that act of faith by each of us—the act of stepping up to all we can do with our financial and other support of this community. When you hear from a faithful Stewardship volunteer asking for your commitment, please think about how much PBUUC means to you and to the world, and let that understanding drive your generosity for the coming year.



See you in church!

Russ

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

Our Caring Community

March's We Care Coordinator 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.

From Rev. Diane Teichert:

On Sunday, March 8, Russ Savage and I will be co-preaching. It is an important day, for two reasons at least. One is that our nation is honoring the 50th anniversary of the marches in Selma, Alabama and the major part they played in achieving voting rights for African-Americans in the United States. Thousands of Unitarian Universalists, including at least three of our members, will be on a pilgrimage there to commemorate those achievements and commit, or recommit, to doing the work of racial justice required in our times.

To be able to recall more clearly the historic events of fifty years ago as you attend the service on March 8th, I urge you to see, or see again, the new movie "Selma," which is still playing in nearby theaters as I write. It's a very good, very moving, and very important film, in my opinion. Also, it's interesting to note that the second and third people whose murders are depicted in the film were Unitarian Universalists, Rev. James Reeb, who is mistakenly identified as a "priest" and Viola Liuzzo, a mother from Chicago. The first murder was of an unarmed young Baptist protester, Jimmie Lee Jackson, by state troopers.

March 8th this year is important to us at PBUUC for another reason as well: the start of our annual stewardship/financial pledge drive at which time we commemorate the achievements of our congregation and commit, or recommit, to supporting it in all the ways we are able, including financially.

Let's see how we can link these two reasons as we celebrate the spirit of life on Sunday March 8th.

Hoping to see you then,

Diane,

Rev. Diane Teichert, Minister
revdteichert@gmail.com



WHEEL OF LIFE

Following a fall, John Holbrook has been in and out of Adventist Hospital and is presently at the Springbrook Rehabilitation Center in Silver Spring. Iris Peabody continues to recover at home from her broken ankle and appreciates calls and notes. Shantida reports that John Hayes died after a long struggle with cancer; he was a long-time member of the Sunday Poetry Group and known by many at PBUUC. Mary Tyrtle Rooker reports that animal rights activist and fellow UU Norm Phelps died recently; he was well known for his books on animal rights and was a leading thinker on ethical eating.

Meet Our Guest Speakers

March 1: Dick Graham and **Jane McKeel** developed this presentation in the form of a scripted television interview. Dick was founding director of the UU Affordable Housing Corp. in 1990 (now morphed into the Open Door Foundation). Jane is co-author of two UUA curricula, *Living the Promise* and *Jesus & His Kingdom of Equals*, and is a former Director of Religious Education at the UU Church of Arlington. Jane and Dick will be joined by Hank Lewis, Joan Lewis, and Bob Maybury. They are all members of the Green Team at their retirement community.

March 15: Debbie Cole is a Unitarian Universalist candidate minister with a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School. She is a licensed pilot and certified diver who seeks adventure from within. As an accredited T'ai Chi Chih (pronounced *chuh*) instructor she finds peace in her T'ai Chi Chih practice as well as other forms of meditation. She is also the Cluster Coordinator for the Joseph Priestley District Greater DC/Maryland congregations.

Planning for Summer Services Is Right Around the Corner: We're Eager to Hear from You!

Even though the groundhog saw its shadow and winter may hang on a little longer, your Worship Associate team is thinking ahead to summer services. This year, we'll hold two planning sessions during Enrichment Hour to gather your ideas and put together a stimulating, engaging schedule for summer worship.

Whether you've already got a fully developed service you can't wait to deliver... or you are mulling over the kernel of an idea that you might possibly want to share, we hope you'll join us. The first planning meeting will be held after service on Sunday, March 29; the second one will be on Sunday, May 3.

Lay-led summer services are an important tradition at Paint Branch. They give our many talented members and friends a chance to share their interests and talents. In recent years, we've enjoyed services about issues ranging from environmental issues, to moral dilemmas, to spiritual practices. Various interest groups, including the Quest book discussion group, the men's group, and the Arts Council, have often stepped up to lead services, and we again hope for a great combination of individual and group-led efforts. As always, Worship Associates will be assigned to each service to keep things running smoothly, and Music Director David Chapman is happy to assist with music selections.

Summer's coming! Please join us for the first planning meeting on March 29. Can't wait until then? Can't make the meeting? Send an e-mail describing your possible topic to bettieyoung@hotmail.com, carolboston2@gmail.com, or vsummers6@gmail.com.

Membership Messages

From the Membership Team: Two events will be scheduled regularly on the fourth Sunday of each month, unless there is a conflicting congregational event:

Signing Sunday, March 22. The Minister and a member of the Board of Trustees will be happy to greet anyone wishing to sign the Membership Book. They will be available by the chalice after the Sunday service, ready to welcome new members wishing to make this important commitment to our church community.

Meet the Minister, March 22. Rev. Savage and a member of the Membership Team will host a gathering of any visitors or friends who would like to find out more about PBUUC and our particular approach to Unitarian Universalism. This is an opportunity to have a personal conversation about our unique church and our many activities. These will be held in the Minister's Office in the RE Building after the service and after any new member signings.

Becoming a Member in Time to Vote on April 26. This is a time for members of our beloved congregation to make vital decisions affecting our future. If you are not a member of PBUUC and want to vote on the Ministerial Transition options being decided during the Special Congregational Meeting on April 26 you still have time. Our by-laws require that members in good standing as of 14 days in advance of a congregational vote are eligible. That cutoff date is April 12. March 22 is the next Signing Sunday (see above). And if you cannot be there then, you may ask a member of the Board of Trustees about signing the book, but this must be before April 12. There is a Board of Trustees Greeter at every Sunday service.

ARE YOU NEW TO PBUUC?

Come to *Roots and Branches of PBUUC*
A class for newcomers and anyone wanting to know more about Unitarian Universalism and Paint Branch
Saturday, March 28, 1 pm - 4 pm
In the RE Building

You will learn about the journey of Unitarian Universalism: from its long-ago roots to how it evolved in the United States as it is today – in relation to your own personal religious journey, with ample time for getting to know other participants and their journeys.

You will hear a short history of how PBUUC came to be and what makes us a unique community. You will get to know a few of our own congregation's leaders as they describe how the church is organized. And you will learn how to get involved according to your interests, passions, gifts or personal goals - in activities that sustain the congregation, serve the community, or change the world.

Please reply to rootsclass@pbuuc.org
 or call the office at 301-937-3666.

A sign-up sheet is also in the church foyer.
 Childcare may be possible if requested by March 20

Board of Trustees Column

Stewardship Committee



Thank you all for staying and participating in the Town Hall held February 8. We had a great turn out and the Board really hopes that the information provided on Ministerial Transition and follow-up Cottage Meetings will help us all discern the best path forward. There were a few questions asked at the Town Hall that I have answers for:

2015-2016 Fair Share dues to the UUA are \$60 per member and are expected to be \$29 per member to the JPD. At the town hall, I said I thought they were \$87 combined and I was off by \$2. With a membership just shy of 200, that puts our Fair Share dues at approximately \$17,800 for next Church year.

A question was asked about the Board stance on social justice, green, and other stances taken by the Church. The Board currently considers itself your Fiduciary Steward. We have very active committees in SAC, DARTT, and Green Team (to name a few) and the Board leaves deciding the response to those issues to those committees.

A full Budget Leadership Team was appointed at the February meeting. The Team is arranging their first meeting and we expect they will be in touch with you about planning the upcoming year's budget.

In other business, our new Meeting House doors have finally arrived at the warehouse in Laurel! The hold-up has been ensuring the colors match the exterior and interior of our building and then their transport from Canada. We are expecting them to be installed within the next 6-8 weeks, weather permitting.

Finally, it's cold outside! Unfortunately, it's also been cold INSIDE! The RE Building has some potentially major heating and cooling issues. Currently, the compressor system in Room 1 is failing. The Board has known about this problem for the last year and has tried to limp along as a new system costs between \$3000 and \$8000. Two weeks ago, the compressor system for the Church Office and the Minister's Office started failing. The problem facing PBUUC is that our geothermal heat pump system uses an older Freon as the refrigerant in the compressors and pump system. That Freon is no longer available and is incompatible with the newer compressors. We can't simply go out and buy a new compressor and hook it into our existing system. The dilemma facing the Board is do we buy a new compressor for each individual room, install the ductwork, and heat completely off the electric grid or do we try to replace the entire geothermal heating system? What is feasible short term? What is best for the Church long term? How do we bridge the immediate need for heat with a long-term sustainable solution? If you have any insight, we'd appreciate your thoughts on this issue.

May you be warm and safe for the rest of this Winter!

Theresa Myrdon

Chair, Board of Trustees

Don't be late, March 8!

Commitment Sunday -- Building Our Way Together

Remember when you Spring ahead into Daylight Savings, the first thing you should do is come to Commitment Sunday and make your pledge to Paint Branch. For the past few weeks, we've heard brief testimonials about what the church means to various members. A lot of ideas were raised at the Town Hall Meeting.

Think about what the church means to you. Think about the dreams we have for the church. Think about what it will take to reach those dreams and commit yourself to doing that. Think about what you have to give the church, how much time, how much talent and how much treasure you can donate to the church and be prepared to commit yourself.

On Sunday, March 8: Begin the day by setting your clocks ahead, and having a conversation in your home about what the church means and how you can give to the church. Brochures are available with charts that help you calculate how much you can afford to pledge. They also indicate how large a pledge is needed for the church to realize its goals.

At 10:00 AM Eastern DAYLIGHT SAVINGS time, the church service will talk about how we can commit ourselves to building a strong church community -- Don't Be Late.

After the service: Lunch will be served. Stewards will be at the tables to answer your questions about pledging and to receive your pledge.

Please sign up for the luncheon at the stewardship table or send an email to stewardship@pbuuc.org so we know how many people are coming. We are also looking for a few good soups and desserts.

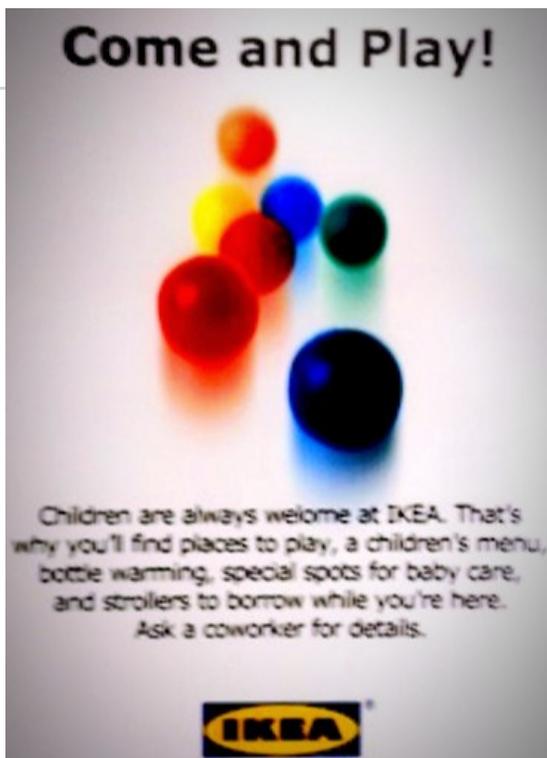
Decorative border of dollar signs surrounding the Legacy Fund announcement. The text reads: 'The Legacy Fund has \$3500 to give to worthwhile PBUUC projects!' followed by a list of requirements and a deadline for proposals.

Religious Exploration

If you have read my “office hours” in the Sunday bulletin, or if you are a member of the [Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Facebook group](#), you may have noticed that every Tuesday I have community office hours at IKEA. I started having community office hours after I read Rev. Peter Morales’ [Congregations and Beyond](#) charge on the UUA website. My community office hours, started out as a small step toward bringing the “good news” of Unitarian Universalism out into the community. I would wear a UU t-shirt and have lunch and bring some work to do, in case no one showed up to chat or plan or share. As with most community-based work, what I have learned has gone far beyond any “good news” I could share.

First, I have been able to study IKEA’s business model. The qualities that keep people coming, and coming back, to IKEA are very applicable to church life. Like PBUUC, IKEA is intentionally welcoming and multigenerational. Like, PBUUC, they have greeters when you first walk in. When you walk into the IKEA elevator, the first sign you see says, “*Children are always welcome at IKEA. That’s why you’ll find a place to play, a children’s menu, bottle warming, special spots for baby care, and strollers to borrow while you are here...*” IKEA doesn’t assume you know that children are welcome; they tell you that children are welcome and then they tell you how they are welcome. Like their furniture, it is beautiful in its simplicity, and there is so much we can learn. They also have wheelchairs, gender neutral bathrooms, elevators and wide aisles, making shopping easy and judgment-free for all types of bodies. My visits to IKEA have made me wonder how PBUUC can make our multigenerational intentions visible to visitors and new families.

The next insight I learned is that being out in the community means being out in my community. Many times I have run into friends and parents from my children’s school at my office hours. Through these chance meetings, I learned of a growing RE program that meets on Wednesday nights and I went to observe it. I learned so much about how another church is growing a successful, research-based RE program, which I will integrate into plans for next year. If I had been sitting in my office at PBUUC behind my computer, none of this cross-



pollination would have happened.

Lastly, I have learned that sometimes, environment does matter. Talking over coffee in the IKEA cafeteria builds relationships in a way that talking in my office can't. It's neutral territory, so to speak, where people can share their thoughts on Ferguson, motherhood, or theology in an informal way. Having a place where a parent can safely watch his or her kids while we talk is invaluable.

I will continue to hold office hours at IKEA on Tuesday afternoons from 1 pm – 3 pm. If I can't make it on a particular Tuesday, I usually post it on the PBUUC Facebook page. If you want, you can schedule a time to meet or you can just drop by. I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours in Faith,

Dayna Edwards

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Unitarian Universalists Practicing Lent

What!?!?! UU's are practicing Lent?? How is this even possible? UUs share theological roots with the Christian tradition and regardless of your personal theology, much can be gained from an intentional spiritual practice of reflection, discipline and gratitude. While the Christian focus of Lent is on "giving up" something, we as Unitarian Universalists can share in this practice by adding something positive and reflective to our lives and by connecting with the larger UU community. This is a way for all generations to connect and participate in a spiritual experience. Imagine the dinnertime and car-time conversations that can be had around each word.

Share your pictures and/or reflections on the Tumblr page mentioned below or on your Facebook or Twitter profile using the hashtag [#UULent](#). I too, will be using the hashtag [#UULent](#) and will primarily post my pictures on Facebook, feel free to follow me or friend me. (Hashtags allow your post to be "searchable" on the social media platform of your choice.) Not on social media, but want to participate? Take your pictures and print them out, we will put them on a temporary display in the lobby.

I wonder how your perspective will change as you incorporate these words and ideas into your daily life.

Yours in Faith,

Dayna

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Please join SAC in supporting Habitat for Humanity (<http://habitatmm.org/>) by participating in their fund-raising event on March 17. That Tuesday, Habitat will receive 20% of the proceeds from [Franklins Restaurant and General Store in Hyattsville](#) all day long. All we have to do is show our receipts to the hostess and say “we are here with Habitat for Humanity.” The 20% to Habitat also goes for any purchases in the General Store. As you probably already know, Habitat for Humanity works with individuals, institutions, faith organizations, businesses, and the Habitat families themselves to build “simple, decent, energy efficient, and affordable housing for those living in substandard conditions in our community.” SAC is planning to partner with Habitat beginning in the spring, so please help us to support this organization, and maybe have some treats, too. For more information please contact Nancy Boardman at nancyboardman3@gmail.com or Janet Overton at janmo12@verizon.net.

Upcoming Social Action Committee (SAC) Meetings:

Saturday, March 21, 10 am – 12:30 pm
in Room 4 of the RE Building

Saturday, April 18, 10 am – 12:30 pm
in Room 4 of the RE Building

Saturday, May 16, 10 am – 12:30 pm
in Room 4 of the RE Building

Continuing SAC Activities. Updates on warm nights, special collections, adult English classes at PB’s Community Learning Center, an updated social justice brochure and new contacts with *Habitat for Humanity* and also with the *Purple Line Corridor Coalition* are SAC activities too. A new book group focusing on economic justice has started as we read *Billionaires’ Ball – Gluttony and Hubris in an Age of Epic Inequality*. Thanks to Marge Owens for taking the lead on this! We are also reviewing for comment the UUA’s Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) on *Escalating Inequality* which Denominational Chair Donald Gerson brought copies of to our February 21st meeting. And again this year we will Co-Sponsor the Maryland United for Peace and Justice annual peace conference – which was held at Paint Branch some years ago. With the Maryland General Assembly now in session we are in contact with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland to focus on key pieces of legislation that reflect UU values – such as criminal justice system reforms, sick leave for low-wage workers, climate change, and a moratorium on fracking in Maryland. Please join us in these social justice undertakings!

New to Warm Nights?

Do you have questions about how to participate in our 2015 Warm Nights week? (Sunday, April 12 through Sunday, April 19)

On Sunday March 1, during Enrichment Hour, you will have the chance to learn all about participation when CCSI Warm Nights Shelter Manager, Donny Phillips, will talk a talk about Warm Nights, as well as the other outreach programs available to Prince George’s County residents through his organization, Community Crisis Services, Inc. Mr. Phillips has over 20 years of social work experience in Prince George’s County, with specific experience in homeless services and issues of substance abuse, as well as in reaching out to the community to raise awareness to end homelessness.

Beginning on March 8, Sign-Up sheets for Warm Nights chores will be available in the Sanctuary. We need lots of help to make our guests welcome! Affinity groups may want to take a day and split the jobs up! It’s worked in the past! Thank you!

Rene McDonald and Tess Morrison

Special Collection for March 2015

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region Scheduled for Sunday, March 22

Paint Branch joins with 25 other area UU congregations to work for effective social action through UUSJ that reflect UU principles. Its priorities are the environment and climate change, comprehensive immigration reform, the widening wealth divide, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) rights. UUSJ advances these through a variety of means; such as a bi-monthly newsletter to more than 500 people to publicize UU and other area social justice events, programs, and opportunities to witness and advocate for UU social justice concerns. UUSJ also honors and celebrates UU social justice activists at an annual awards gala that supports grants up to \$500 – one of which our own Community Learning Center has been awarded. UUSJ coordinates advocacy and witness opportunities and educates people on priority issues. Such as a December briefing they held on escalating inequality that Paint Branchers Nancy Boardman and Deb Rubenstein attended. They also maintain a website and calendar of events for UU and interfaith activities at www.uusj.org. This month’s special collection on March 22 is to help Paint Branch meet its fair share contribution to UUSJ of \$955.00. Thank you very much for helping us meet that goal!

Thank you for January special collection for H.I.P.

The Housing Initiative Partnership received \$868 from Paint Branch. This local non-profit is administered by fellow UUs. The housing crisis is not over yet in our area. Our donation will be used to carry out H.I.P.’s many-pronged program of assisting families to be wise about getting and keeping housing. Tenant groups and coops have been helped to build new, or renovate deteriorated single family and multifamily homes. Copies of the brochure that was inserted in the order of service the day of the collection is still available on the literature table in the Foyer. Additional contributions can be made via [H.I.P.’s PayPal Page](#).



The Wider UU Universe

UU Gospel Musician David B. Smith In Residence At UU Church Of Silver Spring (UUCSS), March 14 - 15

As part of UUCSS' ongoing diversity initiatives and residencies with influential musicians, renowned gospel musician David B. Smith will return to UUCSS for another uplifting and transformative workshop on Saturday, March 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. You will also have the opportunity to sing with their choir at one or both worship services on Sunday, March 15.

This year's program will explore the themes of multiculturalism, music, healing, and letting go.

David is Associate Music Director of the 1800-member All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His unique musical contribution to the UU movement has proven highly significant and includes serving as music and worship leader at the 2013 UUA General Assembly in Louisville, KY and for the UU Musician's Network.

You can enroll online at: <http://tinyurl.com/DSres2015>. There are special rates for students and seniors.

In and Around Paint Branch

"Music at Paint Branch" is back for the 2015 winter/spring season. We are presenting the following exciting programs March through May:

- ☞ Sunday, March 8 brings a return of Deni Foster and Friends - a variety of people, voices, instruments and music.
- ☞ Sunday, March 29 features Steve Silverman, pianist with instrumentals of violin, cello and voice.
- ☞ Sunday, April 26 brings awesome Audrey Andrist, pianist. Audrey frequently serves as pianist at PBUUC!
- ☞ Sunday, May 17 pianist, David Chapman. We know him as PBUUC Music Director!

All recitals will begin at **5 pm** this year and are **free**. Plan to attend these recitals and bring friends and family. There is always a wonderful reception following which gives time to meet the artists.

- Jeri Holloway

Green Team

"Plastics" are the next topic to be shown at the PBUUC Green Team Monthly Environmental Film salon series. Unfortunately plastic has not been viewed as a very serious threat to the future of our planet as it actually is. On Sat March 28, 2015, 7—9:30 pm, this critical topic will begin with screening "Addicted to Plastic." This film creates an awareness of how plastic, a potentially carcinogenic material, dominates our lives. Other films on the deadly dangers of various forms of other plastics, such as PVC, will be shown in proceeding months.

This series will take place at the home of a Paint Branch member. For information, call 240-486-1210. Please call if a RIDE is needed.

Here is an opportunity to engage in discussion with fellow Paint Branchers and friends and take some action on the UUA Study/Action Issue- Escalating Inequality. We will meet and discuss the excellent book **Billionaire's Ball**, a common UUA read, and try to take some positive step's, beginning at the State legislative level, to address income and wealth disparities.

Beginning on Wednesday, March 4, there will be two opportunities to gather. For those who can meet during the day and during the week, we will have a Wednesday afternoon session from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Then, there will be a second session at the New Deal Café in Greenbelt on Saturday morning. Breakfast will be available then. More information is available from Marge Owens, lowellandmarge@verizon.net (301) 345-1572 or Will Snyder wlsceilo@aol.com (301) 474-1202. There will be signup sheets in the Foyer after services this Sunday. We want to get started in March because the Maryland legislative session ends in April and any letter writing or other action there needs to be taken in the next couple of months. The book, **Billionaire's Ball**, is available at Paint Branch. It has already been purchased by 32 Paint Branchers.

There will also be copies of the UUA study guide, **Escalating Inequality**, available in the foyer.

Women of Paint Branch!

The PBUUC Women's Group will hold our annual retreat on Saturday, March 7 from 8 am – 5 pm here at Paint Branch. We'll nourish our bodies and spirits with a wide variety of workshops, delicious food, and plenty of time to be together. We'll be creative or contemplative, move or be quiet, learn something new or share ideas and thoughts. Come join in this day of women sharing their talents and selves with each other. We can even explore ideas for monthly meetings and a summer women-led service!

All are welcome. There is a suggested donation of \$20 to cover our food and supply costs. Childcare will be provided. Please look for your friendly Women's Group planning team in the Foyer after the Sunday service on March 1, for information and registration, or contact: **Anne Hoover**, 301-384-8578, aehoover@hotmail.com or **Wendy Schlegel**, 301-649-4976, waschlegel@gmail.com



**NOURISH
YOUR SPIRIT**

In and Around Paint Branch, cont.

NEW ENGLAND ETHNIC & REGIONAL AMERICAN DINNER

The next Ethnic and Regional American Dinner will feature the American region of New England; that is if we can find it and dig it out of 8 feet of snow! The dinner will be Saturday, March 28 at 6:30 pm. If by chance, you are reading this before March 1 and have any ideas for dishes to be included on the menu, please come to the menu planning meeting on that date, during Enrichment Hour, or give your suggestions or recipes to Marilyn Pearl, 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.



We have a wonderful head-start! Disproving the saying, “No one ever moves north to retire,” several former Paint Branchers have done just that; all of them to New England. I’ve contacted Julie Dahmer, Bernie & Sandy Peavey, and Margaret Warner, and all have responded, giving me multiple suggestions. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if they were able to dig out and join us for this dinner?

New England foods run the gamut from the indigenous flora and fauna regularly consumed by the Native Americans and then by the Pilgrims, to the English foods which survived the voyage across the pond and eventually thrived in the new world, to those brought and introduced by subsequent and more recent waves of immigrants – Irish, Italian, Portuguese, French Canadian to name a few. As this is being written, we don’t have the menu created yet, but it will likely include many of the iconic New England dishes as well as some others we are not as familiar with.

The region played a significant part in American history. It’s where Unitarianism in America first began and is the headquarters of the UUA today, it was the birthplace of many great thinkers, authors and several presidents, and the scene of the “shot heard round the world,” which started the War for Independence. Its food is regional, historical and multi-ethnic.

So, put the date on your calendar and let us know what you think should be on the menu. The menu and tickets will be available, \$15 per adult, following Sunday services on March 8, 15, & 22. At that time we will also be asking for volunteers to help cook, set up, tend the door and clean up. I don’t know if there is any uniquely New England music, but if you have any you think qualifies, we’ll be looking for that as well.

Contact Marilyn Pearl at buffalo_gal@verizon.net or 301-805-1218.

Bookstore Open March 1

The Paint Branch UU Church Bookstore is open on the first Sunday of every month. It provides an opportunity for members and friends to purchase books for adults and children about and by Unitarian Universalists and others. We also have books by two of our own authors: Marj Donn and Lynn Johnson. Stop by and browse and buy from our existing inventory or place an order from the UUA Catalog.

AmazonSmile Brings Money To Paint Branch

AmazonSmile has replaced the selling of grocery scrip as an ongoing fundraiser for Paint Branch UU Church. You can purchase 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. Next month, we’ll report on how much we’ve earned to date.

New Deal Café Again by Popular Demand Wednesday, March 18 at 1 pm

The Third Wednesday Handy UU Lunch Klub will return to the New Deal in Greenbelt’s Shopping Center next to the Coop Grocery Store. On your GPS it will be at 124 Centerway, Greenbelt. The menu is Lebanese, with various plates of beef, chicken or lamb kabobs or other main dishes. Several homemade soups each day. Many top rated desserts including baklavas. Prices are low, parking is easy. Please contact Marge Owens if you need a ride or can give someone else one: lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572.

Nature and Spirituality

March 15—Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Zentangles are miniature pieces of unplanned, abstract, black and white art created through a very specific method from an ensemble of simple, structured patterns called tangles. The process of creating a Zentangle is a form of “artistic meditation” as one becomes completely engrossed in making each pattern, deliberately focusing on “one stroke at a time”. After a quick intro, materials will be provided to try out this mindful art style. You can check out TanglePatterns.com to learn more.

Come join the Nature Spirituality Circle March 22 as we celebrate *Ostara* or spring equinox in Room 3 during Enrichment Hour. We’ve reached the point of balance on the wheel of the year. Persephone is emerging from her six months in Hades and flowers are starting to bloom as she returns in her Kore aspect.

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.

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