



# BRANCHES



## **PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

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

**May 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.*

**MAY 3**

### **THE INEVITABILITY OF CHANGE**

*Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate with the entire PBUUC Worship Associates Team;  
Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards; and the Choir*

All things, including ourselves, are in the process of changing. To quote the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, we cannot step into the same river twice. Join the entire PBUUC Worship Associates team as we explore different dimensions and types of change in our lives. This service was commissioned by PBUUC member Ethelyn Bishop, who won the right to select the service topic for the Worship Associates' Service at last fall's PBUUC Church Auction.

**MAY 10**

### **LOVING THE HELL OUT OF THE WORLD**

*Rev. Christina Leone Tracy, with Worship Associate Carol Boston, and the Choir*

Our mission as Unitarian Universalists is to create the beloved community, to stand on the side of love in the face of fear and hate, to literally "love the hell out" of the world. What does our history and theology call us to do, and can we be more than "community"? —*Learn more about our guest preacher on Page 4.*—

**MAY 17**

### **WHEN GRACE STRIKES**

*Rev. Rob Keithan, with Worship Associate Van Summers;*

*Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards; and the Children's Choir*

Theologian Paul Tillich wrote that "Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness" and leaves everything "transformed." This sermon will reflect on what it means for grace to "strike," and what we can do to be ready for it! —*Learn more about our guest preacher on Page 4.*—

**MAY 24**

### **THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS**

*Rev. Russ Savage; with Worship Associate Noel Monardes and*

*Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards*

Our Unitarian Universalist principles call us "to affirm and promote the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." How do we do this? How strongly should we promote the use of the democratic process upon others? This sermon topic was selected by auction winner Pat Behenna.

— *This is a Signing Sunday. 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.*—

**MAY 31**

### **WHAT BRINGS ME SERENITY?**

*The PBUUC Youth: Milan Monardes, Sophie Bernheisel, Abigail Wester, Lillian Enoch, Kevin Ahern, Caleb Porter, and Sara Earnest; with Youth Advisor Sonny Katz; and Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards*  
The life of a teenager is filled with many competing priorities: school, family, work, church, extracurricular activities, friends, and the list goes on. This year's youth service will focus on how we de-stress, in healthy ways. **\*\*\*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)
	Jane Trout (Visual Arts)
Auction	Mark Shute
Budget Leadership Team	Kathi Yu
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	<a href="#">contact church office</a>
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	<a href="mailto:SOM@pbuuc.org">SOM@pbuuc.org</a>
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	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
Meditation Group	Cory Carter
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Moms of Young Ones	Jessica Sharp
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
	Amy Steiner
Spirituality Circle	Marge Owens
TWedHUULK	Esther Nichols
Ushers	Rene McDonald
Warm Nights	Mark Shute
Webmaster	Pat Behenna
Welcome Table Greeters	Jeri Holloway
Widowed Persons Support Group	Wendy Schlegel
Women's Group	Wendy Schlegel
Women's Retreat	

### 🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

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

### 🌀 Staff 🌀

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

<a href="#">Minister</a>	Rev. Diane Teichert
<a href="#">Interim Caretaker Minister</a>	Rev. Russ Savage
<a href="#">Music Director &amp; Pianist</a>	David Chapman
<a href="#">Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration</a>	Dayna Edwards
<a href="#">Director, Chalice Dancers</a>	Sharon Werth
<a href="#">Church Administrator</a>	Charles Bury
<a href="#">Administrative Assistant</a>	Alexis Saunders
<a href="#">Bookkeeper</a>	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:

I've had the opportunity to attend several professional development events recently. There are so many new things to learn! Early in April I attended the Joseph Priestley District Annual Assembly, held this year in Lafayette Hill, PA. Don Gerson, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Tri-cia Most, and Carol Carter Walker were also there representing PBUUC. There were many wonderful presentations and workshops at the assembly, so I'll just mention one valuable learning. Pat Infante, our Congregational Primary Contact from the Central East Region, told us in a workshop entitled "Spiritual Strength for Bold Living," that church is the one place where we can afford to be vulnerable. We can almost never be vulnerable at work, where we're expected to be tough, self-sufficient, productive and efficient. Often we can't be vulnerable in our family, where long-held expectations (and sometimes family secrets) limit what we can comfortably say. It is at church that we should be safe in expressing our deepest fears, hopes, reservations, and feelings. If this is to be so, it imposes on each of us at church the responsibility to make a safe space for others to be vulnerable, so there will be such a space for us, too.

Later in the month I attended the Dean's Leadership Forum at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, where Diane and I were classmates many years ago. Alan Cooperman, Director of Religion Research at the Pew Research Center, made a fascinating presentation about the future of religious identities around the world. They have made projections of the growth of various faith traditions by examining demographic information. For example, the average age worldwide of Muslims today is 23. The average age of Jews worldwide today is 36. Which of these groups is going to have more children? That's the kind of thing they worked with. Buddhists also are aging rapidly as they are heavily concentrated in China where the population is aging. Christianity is expected to continue to grow, but not as rapidly as Islam, with the two being about equal at 2.8 billion each in 2070. Fascinating!

It's a great privilege and pleasure to be able to attend events such as these as your minister and to bring back some of what I learn there.

See you in church!

*Russ*

Rev. Russ Savage  
Interim Caretaker Minister  
[ICM@pbuuc.org](mailto:ICM@pbuuc.org)



### From Rev. Diane Teichert:

I'm writing this on the day of the newsletter deadline, which happens to be the day after my morning with you on Sunday, April 19. So, the "transforming power of love" I feel for and from the congregation is fresh in my mind and in my heart. I only have one major regret.

It was something I forgot to say during my short talk with those who were able to stay after the service. I forgot to put out there something which I think that many of the children, and possibly some of the adults, may be wondering about: "She seems pretty fine on Sunday mornings, except for walking with a cane and a lot of people do that, so why can't she come back to be our minister?"

Then I was going to go on to describe for them the many other parts of the job which don't happen on Sunday mornings. The weekly staff supervision meetings, the monthly meetings with staff with whom I plan worship, monthly meetings with the board, the Committee on Ministry, the Pastoral Care Associates, the Worship Associates, and monthly meetings of certain groups and committees that I attend periodically. The church's social and fundraising events. Reading and writing in preparation for sermons, choosing hymns and readings for services. Pastoral care in my office or in people's homes or out for tea. Memorial and child dedication services and weddings. And the planning, either by myself or with others, for all of these activities to ensure they go well. Planning and leading any adult religious exploration classes that I'm teaching (I would have liked to do more of those). Reading scriptures, books and various professional resources and reaching out to, and attending meetings with, ministerial colleagues for good ideas, support around challenges and the other benefits of peer relationships. Activity and leadership in local and national justice campaigns and denominational affairs. Moving furniture, emptying the leftovers from the hospitality room refrigerator, filling the bird-feeder outside my office window, and caring about, and enjoying, the buildings and grounds.

Obviously I couldn't not have gone into all of that detail and expected to keep the attention of the children! But you get the idea. It's not a one half-day a week job!

Please stay tuned to the various communications from PBUUC for the ways in which I hope to say goodbye over the next couple months. Please be sure you're following PBUUC on Facebook, Twitter, and whatever else, and reading the weekly emails thoroughly. Think you're missing something? Contact Chuck Bury at [ChurchAdmin@pbuuc.org](mailto:ChurchAdmin@pbuuc.org).

Love you,

*Diane.*

Rev. Diane Teichert, Minister  
[revdteichert@gmail.com](mailto:revdteichert@gmail.com)



## Board of Trustees Column

### Fellow Members,

This last month has been interesting for the Board of Trustees. The biggest item that we've been working on is Ministerial Transition. Thank you to all who attended the Town Hall to learn about the UUA Interim Ministry program and the next steps for Paint Branch. The Board named an Interim Task Force consisting of Liz Citrin, Peter Dowling, Wendy Schlegel, and myself. We have filed an application for Interim Ministry and will be interviewing interested Ministry Candidates. Once, the Interim Task Force has made a choice, we will present it to the Board to vote on. The intent is to have our Interim Minister hired to start on August 1st.

During the Interim Ministry's two-year tenure, the Board will need to staff a Transitions Team. They are a group of five to seven members of the Church with an understanding of PBUUC's history, governance, and energy. This team helps the Ministry learn about Paint Branch and provides helping hands. Anyone interested should contact Peter Dowling. The Board will be nominating and approving this Team at our August 2015 meeting.

The Search process for our new settled ministry can not begin until after PBUUC meets with the District Ministerial Representative and determines how the Congregation wants to staff the Search Committee. The Board does not intend the Search Committee to begin its work until after February 2016. We appreciate everyone who is interested and ask that you hold on as we're not there yet.

Finally, the Board continues to work on other concerns such as our heating and cooling systems, finding volunteers for our Personnel Committee, and long term leasing options and policies.

Sincerely,  
*Theresa Myrdon*  
 Chair, Board of Trustees

## Denominational Affairs

### Denominational Affairs: Invitation to Portland Oregon

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA) of Congregations will be held in Portland Oregon, June 24 – 28, 2015. This is always the major event of the year for our denomination, and an opportunity to help develop and participate in the decisions being made which will affect all of us over the coming years. In addition, Portland, known as Rose City, is a beautiful city with very advanced public transportation, and is located near the Columbia River Gorge, one of the most scenic areas in the nation, and not far from the Pacific Coast. You can learn more about GA, including registration fees, travel, housing, workshops, etc., by going to the following website: [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga)

Registration is open now for all attendees, and you do not have to be a delegate to attend. Early bird registration is open until April 30.

Paint Branch UU Church is entitled to four lay delegates, and if you choose to go, you may request to be one of them. A recommended slate of delegates and alternates is made by the Board, and must be approved by the Congregation at our Annual Meeting in June. In addition, if we do not have five attending delegates, it is possible to be an offsite delegate, with the same voting privileges as onsite, but by attending the plenary sessions by way of your computer instead. Offsite delegates are still delegates, and their names must be submitted to the Board and Congregation the same as attending delegates. So now is the time to decide. If you desire to be a delegate or alternate please submit your name to Donald Gerson, Denominational Affairs Committee Chair, who will assemble the list of names to be submitted to the Board of Trustees, after discussion with all prospective delegates. For more information, and/or to submit your name, please contact Don at [donalddgerson@yahoo.com](mailto:donalddgerson@yahoo.com) or 240-293-6570. Please respond by May 8, so there will be adequate time to get the names to the BOT for their action.

*Donald Gerson, Denominational Affairs Committee Chair*

## Meet Our Guest Preachers

### May 10th: Rev. Christina Leone Tracy

Rev. Christina Leone Tracy is Faith Development Minister and self-described "UU Evangelist" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis. Known for her "Wonder Box" invention, Rev. Christina was chosen to share her great idea during the "Time for All Ages" at the 2012 UUA General Assembly. She served previously as a Director of Religious Education at Neshoba UU Church in Memphis and at the Third Unitarian Church of Chicago. She received an M.S. in psychology from the University of Memphis and a M.Div. from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Rev. Christina and her husband Brian live in Hyattsville with their two dogs, Zoe and Jester.

### May 17th: Rev. Rob Keithan

is a faith organizing and training consultant specializing in reproductive health, rights and justice issues as well as congregational social justice programs. He is an affiliated minister of All Souls Church Unitarian and lives with his partner Mandy in Washington, DC .

## Religious Exploration

As the congregation embarks on a time of great change, the members of the Multigenerational Religious Exploration Team (MRET) are grounding ourselves, by reading a book called, *Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating, and Serving Faithfully*, by Kathie Amidei, Jim Merhaut, and John Roberto. The book is a research-driven guide to creating an authentically intergenerational faith community. Our group is only on chapter three and already the ideas, energy, and excitement are building! The book states, “Intergenerational activity refers to interaction across age groups in which there is a sense of mutuality – that is, where participants both give to and receive from those of other ages. It is much more about collaborative involvement with others rather than simply ministry to others.” It is somewhat of a paradigm shift, however, the good news is, PBUUC is already taking many actions in the direction of having an intentional intergenerational (or multigenerational) community.

Let’s imagine that we have five different campfires, one for each of the parts of the multigenerational community, one for caring, praying, learning, celebrating, and serving respectively. Each campfire is a particular stage of being. One fire might just be starting, needing someone to blow on it, add kindling, stoke it, watch it and tend to it carefully. Another fire might just consist of some glowing embers, waiting to be renewed. Yet another fire might be burning brightly, pretty much taking care of itself with just a need for some occasional tending and monitoring.

With our campfire metaphor in mind, the MRET is planning for the summer and fall. Now is the time of discerning which fires we want, or need, to tend to; which we need to add kindling to; and which fires we need to extinguish. Much like our campfire metaphor, we need to look at our resources. How much “firewood” do we have? What is the best use of that wood? Ever mindful that putting a large log on a fire that is just starting will actually suffocate the fire and cause it to go out.

One of the most important resources that the MRET needs is volunteer time. Your time. Just as it takes many logs to start a fire and keep it going. It takes many volunteers to support and energize our multigenerational programming. Here’s some of the ways you can help, and I would love to hear:

**Caring:** participating in a new “mystery friends” program in the fall, or mentoring a youth or young adult.

**Praying/Meditating:** finding and sharing chalice lightings or spiritual reflections suitable for families, or teaching a spiritual practice during enrichment hour.

**Learning:** leading a multigenerational class in the fall, or leading a group of children and youth in religious exploration in the summer or the fall.

**Celebrating:** organizing one of our seasonal parties, or helping lead a new program called “Birthday Buttons” we will be launching in the fall.

**Serving:** leading a multigenerational service project, or making space for children and youth to serve the congregation in new ways.

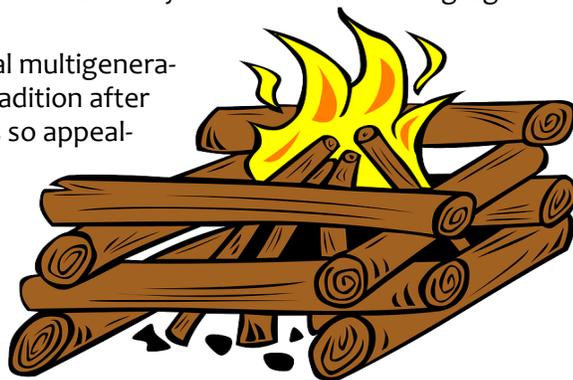
Research shows that those young people who are a part of an intentional multigenerational community are more likely to continue to be a part of their faith tradition after graduation. Yet it is the mutuality of intergenerational community that is so appealing. We all have so much to gain. To join the movement of intergenerational community at PBUUC, contact Dayna Edwards at [dre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dre@pbuuc.org).

Yours in Faith,

*Dayna*

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

[DRE@pbuuc.org](mailto:DRE@pbuuc.org)



## Our Caring Community



### WHEEL OF LIFE

Congratulations to Michel Léger and John Sebastian on their recent marriage; the ceremony was performed by Diane. We will miss Michel and John as they move to Arizona, but send our good wishes with them. It’s been great to see Muriel Morisey back in church recently after her lengthy illness. Condolences to Chris Evans, whose father died recently. Comforting thoughts to Chuck Bury, who learned of the passing of two of his father’s sisters within three days of each other in April.

**May’s We Care Coordinator is Melody Lawrence.** 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.

## How to Move Forward?

By Tricia Most, Co-Chair

*Multigenerational Religious Exploration Team*

As we consider questions and options for Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church regarding our budget, programming, board of trustees positions, and ministry, we need to appreciate the resources available to us. Paint Branch is one of a number of congregations in the “Greater Washington Area Group,” which is part of the Joseph Priestley District, which is part of the Central East Regional Group of the UUA. These sub-groupings are designed to encourage congregations to learn together about current research, effective strategies, trends, and best practices regarding how to ‘do church.’ (Go to [www.cerguua.org](http://www.cerguua.org) to see the services offered.) I am ashamed (and I know I’m not the only one) to admit that our congregation has not been paying our “Fair Share” of dues to support the staff and services that our district and regional group provide for our congregation. Ministers seeking new positions look for healthy congregations and consider three key indicators: budgets, their boards of trustees (are all positions filled?), and their “Fair Share” status; We need to improve our status, particularly regarding the last two criteria as we approach our annual congregational meeting!



April’s Annual District Assembly, the first for our new District Executive, Rev. David Pyle, offered relevant ideas for Paint Branch. Much about this assembly seemed strongly improved to me: the district budget was wisely frugal, and there was a new approach to keynote-defined themes for two tracks of workshops. A ‘Congregational Connections’ keynote introduced three subsequent workshops by CERG staff member Mark Bernstein, known for his growth development work. Mark provided logistical examples and ideas about congregations sharing resources – including space, programming, justice projects, and even staff among geographically close congregations. Mark illustrated how combining energies and resources among small and mid-sized congregations allows greater effectiveness.

Another keynote and series of three workshops was presented by CERG staff member Pat Infante, known for her lifespan faith development work, with the theme of “Spiritual Strength for Bold Living.” Pat used the metaphor of a bonsai tree to illustrate how some of our congregations are kept smaller than they are intended to be. She reminded us that everything we do is ‘faith development,’ all we teach is Unitarian Universalism, and the congregation is the curriculum. According to Pat, our faith identity forms in adolescence, and sometimes, necessary unlearning and reformation occur later. She encouraged us to consider our faith journeys, which are not necessarily linear and constant, and may, instead, occur in spurts at different times in our lives. A minister’s own spiritual journey, she said, is the source of their pastoral authority and spiritual nurture is the heart of pastoral care. She particularly advocated for all congregations to develop small group ministry programs also known as covenant groups (for which some at Paint Branch have already been trained). Pat talked about the importance of listening to each other with curiosity and a willingness to learn. Most importantly, she advised that mature, self-aware faithful leaders determine that health is possible in a community. She invited us to consider the strength of our congregation in eight categories: ‘engagement with difference,’ ‘commitment to learning,’ ‘openness to the unseen and unknown,’ ‘vulnerability and covenant,’ ‘curiosity,’ ‘openness to ambiguity,’ ‘resilience,’ and ‘trust in leadership.’

In addition to being thrilled that Pat Infante’s workshops involved “UUs finally getting real!” (as a friend put it), I found the worship services even more lively and refreshing than at previous assemblies. A young, multi-racial group of multimedia artists sponsored by the UUA called “The Sanctuaries, DC” presented three contemporary worships, during which we were invited to move as we wished in or out of our swiveling, rocking armchairs. Assemblies typically showcase innovative worship, such as that practiced by the Wellspring Congregation, which has grown to a membership of 250 in the ten years of its existence. Churches that are worshiping in ways more typical of the UU youth Cons my daughters once attended are the churches attracting growth in our denomination. Across the nation, many UU congregations that continue to cater to older congregants (and I am one) are shrinking in membership.

The message is to embrace the new, and to adapt to practices that welcome more and younger people into our congregations.

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



### Next Reverberations Topic: Policing In Black and White

We will be scheduling our next Enrichment Hour Reverberations on the topic of policing as viewed and experienced by different members of our community.

### Sunday Services

As Branches goes to press, DARTT is planning a Summer Service on the theme of Emancipation, with a meal to follow. DARTT is also looking forward to planning what has become a traditional Kwanzaa Service and potluck during the winter holiday season.

### Meetings Back to Tuesdays.

### Will Continue Year-Round.

We are moving our monthly meetings back to Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. There are two components to our meetings: Sharing joys and concerns about issues related to diversity at Paint Branch and the wider UU community; and planning for upcoming events. All are welcome!

Watch upcoming Bulletins and e-mail blasts for specific dates and details about our programs and activities. Send ideas, comments, questions, etc., to [DARTT@pbuuc.org](mailto:DARTT@pbuuc.org).

Submitted by: Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair, DARTT



## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

### UU Unity Weekend – May 2 & 3, Baltimore, MD

#### Service Project at Daysprings Saturday, May 2 at 10 am

1125 N. Patterson Park Ave. Baltimore, MD 21213

Daysprings in E. Baltimore is a transitional housing facility and program for women with children experiencing homeless and addiction. “Dayspring Gardens” is a community garden initiated by the Poverty and Homelessness Ministry of First U to build community among Dayspring residents, to grow fresh vegetables and flowers, and mentor children in their own care for the earth. UUs from the Greater Baltimore cluster and beyond are welcome to participate. Contact: Kathleen Flahive, 410-375-3659 or [kmfandjmf@gmail.com](mailto:kmfandjmf@gmail.com)

#### Union Service — Sunday, May 3

Prelude Concert 3:30 pm; Union Service 4 pm.

Public Witness for Justice and Peace 5:15 pm.

Join UUs from the region for a service of deep spirituality and power. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Helen Lutton Cohen, former minister of First Parish in Lexington, MA. Combined choirs will be led by the music directors of the Baltimore, Towson and Columbia churches. Following the Service, a public witness event will feature a speaker from the Black Lives Matter movement.

The celebration commemorates the preaching in Baltimore by Rev. William Ellery Channing of Unitarian Christianity, the second most widely distributed philosophical document in the United States before 1840. Channing’s words spoke to our nation, and we hope that by uniting in our faith, our witness today may have reverberations beyond our churches and into our communities and nation.

## Membership Messages

### Meet the Minister, May 24.

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. Those who are returning, or who have come only infrequently and want to get reacquainted are also welcome. Please come to the Ministers Office in the RE Building after the service.

### Welcome to Our New Members

Our PBUUC community has been enriched by the addition of these new members since last April: Cathy Robertson, Eric Olson, Sarah Treado, Lenka Fill, Bryan Monnell, Elaine Shell, Ed Greville, Margaret Stricklett, Sarah Shannon Firestone, Linda Ward, Robin Earnest, and Erin Gebhart. A warm welcome to all!

## Buildings and Grounds (BAG)

### BOBCAT SATURDAY MAY 2

No, not a folksinger. We, Buildings & Grounds, are bringing in a Bobcat to work on the parking lot Saturday May 2.

BUT we need help...any time you can give, an hour or three would be great. BONUS ...we can show you how to operate a BOBCAT! Saturday, May 2 from 9 am on.



### Beautification Day, Saturday, June 6.

This is our annual spring clean-up/fix-up day.

Tasks for everyone to make our PBUUC buildings and grounds more inviting to everyone. Come anytime between 9 am and 2 pm. Lowell Owens, Buildings and Grounds chair. Contact: [lowellandmarge@verizon.net](mailto:lowellandmarge@verizon.net)



## Social Action Committee (SAC) News

### A SAC Review

It's been an active church year for SAC and its members. Special mention should go to those who have taken leadership roles in important church social justice causes. These include Carmelita Carter-Sykes whose dedication and drive led to the creation of our Paint Branch Community Learning Center where English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are taught each Sunday afternoon at three levels by Paint Branchers. Marj Donn has been outstanding as SAC's Special Collection coordinator for those important monthly collections in which PBUUC contributes to a wide variety of worthy causes. And of course Rene McDonald, with Tess Morrison, were the co-coordinators of Warm Nights this year. A Paint Branch tradition for years as we shelter the homeless for a week. Marge Owens has been the leader of our PBUUC "read" of the important economic justice book *Billionaires' Ball*. And speaking of economic justice & the widening wealth divide – we welcome back our SAC coordinator Deb Rubenstein from her important work on comps for her PhD. Deb will be holding listening groups to explore this critical topic to help us focus our economic justice work at Paint Branch.

SAC members have also attended Purple Line meetings to better inform ourselves about this proposed new metro line. We coordinate with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland. Carmelita and Nancy Boardman are Paint Branch representatives to the Board of Directors of the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region which is a regional partnership of 25 UU congregations doing advocacy and education work for UU values. An important UUSJ annual meeting is coming on May 16th in the late afternoon at the Arlington UU church that we hope many Paint Branchers can attend. Details will follow. SAC also supports the Capital Pride Festival, the annual Maryland United for Peace and Justice Conference that was held at PBUUC in years past, and works with the Green Team on funding for environmental justice causes.

And more too! We hope this gives you a sense of the scope of SAC's activities. Our last meeting of the church year will be on Saturday, May 16th from 10 – 12:30 in Rm. #4 of the RE building. Please do join us! Then we'll be taking a summer break. Back together in September! For more information you can contact: Nancy Boardman, SAC Chair, at 301-982-3450 or sac@pbuuc.org

### Upcoming Social Action Committee (SAC) Meetings:

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

### Warm Nights!

Our first Spring Warm Nights ended on Sunday, April 19 as about 15 contented guests packed up their gear and cots to head off to other destinations. Originally, there were 19, including a young father and his toddler, but they took off earlier in the week, as did several others. Kudos to all the Paint Branchers who had a hand in making the week so successful for everyone: the cooks, the servers, the minglers (sometimes they wore all three hats!), the overnighters, those who made the sandwiches for the lunch bags, those who prepared the sanctuary for the CCSI cots on the first Sunday, and set them, and then set up the seats for service on the last, as well as to all those who donated money at both Christmas Eve services. Thanks, too, to Chuck Bury, who was a fountain of information on building operations. Tess and I wore all those hats, so we know how much energy and stamina it took to get it all done!

Paint Branch is a loving community of generous people and I am so glad I am a part of it! And we are all in good hands for Warm Nights 2016, with my deputy, Tess Morrison in charge.

*Rene McDonald, Warm Nights 2015 Coordinator*

### Special Collection News

Recent Special Collections: We contributed \$1010 to Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in March and \$809 to the Chesapeake Climate Action Network in April. A big thank you to everyone.

Upcoming Special Collections: May 10: CROP Walk/Church World Service (for hunger alleviation); June 14: Habitat for Humanity/Metro Maryland and July (date TBA): Beacon House (UU Inner City Ministry).

## Green Team

### Green Team in the Community

**Come learn about Maydale Conservation Park** during the next Green Team meeting on Sunday, May 17 during Enrichment Hour. The park is located approximately 7 miles away from PBUUC in eastern Montgomery County. Renee Katz will provide some background on the park and programs offered there in the past and present, and recent actions by community members and elected officials to work with Montgomery Parks to explore options for revitalizing the now-closed building which previously housed a nature center.

*- Renée Katz*

### Greenbelt location for Saturday, June 14th meeting

from 2 to 5 pm at the Mishkan Torah Synagogue at 10 Ridge Road. Please mark your calendar for a no-cost workshop on methods of preventing further damage to our Chesapeake Bay and all its tributaries. More information later.

*- Marge Owens*

## In and Around Paint Branch

### ART NEWS

Donna Aldridge, Betty Farrar and Jane Trout, three watercolorists, invite you to a reception on Sunday, May 3 from 11:30 am until 1 pm. This will be the final day for this exhibit.

Susanna Euston, a friend of Sharon Werth, along with two friends of Susanna's will be showing nature photographs of floral subjects starting May 10.

We would like suggestions of other artists who might be interested in showing their work at Paint Branch. If you have ideas please call Jane Trout at 301-572-2898.

### WICKED GOOD ETHNIC DINNER !!

Way back in May 1988, when we first started planning Ethnic Dinners, one enthusiastic participant said, "Oh yes! I really love Cajun food!" "OK," I said, "We'll make that Ethnic and Regional American dinners." We've now produced 67 dinners; of those, fifteen were based on an American city or region. We've done New England before – 26 years ago, so it seemed time to revisit. This was Cathy Helmold's suggestion. She's from that area as is Patty Daukantas, and Margaret McLellan lived in the Canadian Maritime Provinces, so all three had suggestions. But we also received input from three former Paint Branchers who have moved to New England – Margaret Warner, Sandy Peavey and Julie Dahmer. So thank you to all six for their expertise, and to Patty for the music. Ironically, after our decision was made, New England put itself in the headlines with record high snowfalls and a Super Bowl win!



A northeastern US cuisine – how difficult or expensive can that be? For some hard-to-fathom reason, American ingredients tend to be scarce and/or expensive. Have you priced clams, lobster, and cod (fresh or salted), or maple syrup lately? Speaking of maple, the recipe for the cookies came from Karen Donovan whose family got it from a friend in Vermont. Tricia Most made our cookies using maple syrup she and Eric had just purchased at a Maple Syrup festival two weeks before.

We stopped doing February dinners because of the potential for wintry weather. Usually March 28<sup>th</sup> (the date of this dinner) is cherry blossom time! Snow cancelled church two consecutive Sundays in March, including the day we'd scheduled the Menu Meeting. We tried doing it by email, with limited success. That left only two Sundays to finalize the proposed menu, copy the recipes, sell tickets and recruit volunteers. Then, the night of the dinner, we had very cold temps and even more snow! Oh, and note to self – no more surgery during the weeks just before a dinner!

So thanks first to those New Englanders named above, to Andy Myrup, Elizabeth Yanowitch, Anita Williams, Ethelyn Bishop, Elaine Shell, and anyone else who came early and helped set up, and again to Ethelyn, an expert at tending the door. The cooks included Jane Trout, Marilyn Pearl, Patty's friend Nick Wizorek, Tricia & Eric Most, Kathi Yu, Marge Owens, Keith Miller & Debra Street, Richard Côté, Tess Morrison, Don Gerson, Cathy Helmold, Penny O'Brien, and Janet Overton. Mike Stark & Sonja Meredith set up and tended the bar, serving authentic beverages such as Sam Adams beer, Woodchuck (hard) Cider (Patty's suggestion), and Cranberry juice. Clean up was a challenge because the next day's Dance Service required a clean MH floor and chairs arranged in the round, and of course the kitchen needed cleaning too. Thank you to those who made this happen – Building Manager Wyatt Rexach, Ethelyn Bishop, Cathy Helmold, Elaine Shell, Lowell & Marge Owens, Tricia Most, Keith Miller & Debra Street, Sherry Mitchell, Marcie Washburn, Marilyn Pearl, Truett Briggs, David Chapman, Don Gerson, and especially to Noel Monardes & Nancy Spande who stayed to clean the kitchen until it was done!

Thank you to those who took home tablecloths to launder and any others who worked without my seeing them. Thanks to the 57 who attended and all those who visited the leftover sale the following day. This dinner netted \$716.



Music at Paint Branch presents its final recital of the season with an exciting program "2 Flats and a Piano Player" on Sunday, May 17 at 5 pm. This concert will feature our own David Chapman at the piano. He will play musical compositions that all have 2 flats in the key signature of the music; Bb Major or g minor. Do not miss our own fabulous music director perform works by Scarlatti, Mozart, Chopin, and Prokofiev. Support the arts at PBUUC and attend this wonderful free recital! Bring friends and stay for a reception after to meet and greet the performer!"

- Jeri Holloway

### Join Us in Laurel for Lunch at Sapphire, Wednesday, May 20 at 1 pm

The [Third Wednesday UU Lunch Klub](#) will return to an old favorite in May. [Sapphire](#) has a very interesting Indian buffet plus we can order from their inexpensive, vegetarian-friendly, [North Indian](#), [South Indian](#) and [Thai](#) menus. We have always had a warm welcome from the staff. As usual, prices are reasonable, parking is easy, and we will arrange rides for those who need a pick up and return. If you need a ride or can give a ride to someone please contact Marge Owens at 301-345-1572 or [lowellandmarge@verizon.net](mailto:lowellandmarge@verizon.net). **Directions:** Take Baltimore-Washington Parkway to Route 197. Turn toward Laurel. A block or so after the exit turn left into a strip shopping center. The address is [13308 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel, MD](#) if you are using GPS. The restaurant is in the middle of the mall.

### Note to Our Readers:

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

**SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES:** All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to:

[branches@pbuuc.org](mailto:branches@pbuuc.org).

**The Leadership Directory**, (on page 2 of this issue), will contain names only. For more contact information, please consult your Membership Directory or call the Church Office at 301-937-3666. All submitted articles will contain phone numbers and/or email addresses for contact if listed. You may choose to list your email address only as a point of contact, 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](mailto: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](http://www.pbuuc.org). Scroll down to “This Week” and click on**

**“More Upcoming Events.” Click on the Calendar grid to the left to advance to the next month.**

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