



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

### September 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

#### SEPTEMBER 6 HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Worship Associate Jonathan Mawdsley & Music Director David Chapman, Worship Leaders; with Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Select, hear and sing your favorite hymns from diverse religious traditions.

**\*\*This is an All Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to remain for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest, provided in Room 6.\*\***

#### SEPTEMBER 13 INGATHERING

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Worship Associate Carol Boston; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; The Choir; and Chalice Dancers We begin a new church year with new possibilities, facing them with old challenges and old strengths.

**\*\*This is an All Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to remain for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest, provided in Room 6.\*\***

**The whole congregation is invited to an informal question and answer session with our new Interim Minister, the Rev. Evan Keely, immediately following worship on September 13. Come bring your questions, ideas and hopes.**

#### SEPTEMBER 20 THE VIEW FROM MOUNT NEBO

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Worship Associate Carol Carter Walker; and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration A time of intentional transition in any community creates opportunities for renewal.

#### SEPTEMBER 27 WHY CHURCH?

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Worship Associate Noel Monardes; and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Why do we go to church? What purposes does an intentional religious community serve?

### Minister's Column

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

*Things that people often ask the Rev. Evan Keely, our new Interim Minister*



#### What made you want to be a minister?

I want to help people make sense out of life. I want to empower people to discover and strengthen their gifts and share them with the world. I want to help people organize themselves to be of compassionate service to the world. I want to help create nurturing spaces where people can be challenged and emboldened to think about matters of ultimate importance.

I enjoy doing interim ministry because a time of transition can open up extraordinary possibilities for revitalization and self-discovery in a congregation, presenting a particularly ripe opportunity to build on existing strengths and to face challenges with renewed vigor. Paint Branch is the seventh congregation I've served as an interim minister, and I'm always learning new things about how to do this very special and exciting kind of ministry.

#### What made you want to be the Interim Minister of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church?

The loss, after half-a-dozen years of honorable service, of a much-appreciated minister due to health reasons is quite a blow. I have known Rev. Diane Teichert for many years and I have great respect for her. I know she is not perfect — no one is — but her resignation has been a cause of grief. Like all who know her, I received the news of her April 2014 stroke with shock and tremendous sadness. Her recovery has been remarkable, and she has faced this experience with her characteristic grace; nevertheless, she came to realize that she could not continue to serve at PBUUC — a difficult decision that showed great wisdom and integrity on her part.

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## PBUUC Leadership Directory

### 🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2015-2016 🌀

email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto:BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Chair	Theresa Myrdon
Vice Chair	Liz Citrin
Vice Chair	Tess Morrison
Trustee	John Barr
Trustee	Melody Lawrence
Trustee	Mike McMenamin
Trustee	Marge Owens
Trustee	Ken Redd
Trustee	Carol Carter Walker
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

### 🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

Carol Boston (2013-16)	Beth Charbonneau (2015-18)
Noel Monardes (2013-16)	Will Snyder (2015-18)
Van Summers (2014-17)	Sophie Bernheisel (youth WA)
Carol Carter Walker (2014-17)	

### 🌀 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	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds	Kathi Yu
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	<a href="#">contact church office</a>
Green Team (contact)	Marilyn Pearl
Leasing (contact)	Patty Daukantas
Legacy Fund	Marj Donn
Membership	<a href="#">Church Office</a>
Ministry	Ken Montville
Nominating	Janet Overton
Personnel	Susannah Schiller
Religious Exploration (co-chairs)	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Site Improvement	Jim Flaherty
Social Action	Patricia Most & Elizabeth Porter
Sustaining Our Ministry	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Stewardship	Nancy Boardman
	<a href="mailto:SOM@pbuuc.org">SOM@pbuuc.org</a>
	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
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

### 🌀 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="#">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
Director, Chalice Dancers	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
	Alexis Saunders



**CLIMATE FACT OF THE MONTH:**

The Arctic sea ice is the smallest in recorded history.

Source: SCIENCE Magazine, July/August 2015



## Minister's Column, continued

However, that loss also presents opportunities. I took an interest in working with this congregation at this time because I wanted to help this church on its journey to a place not merely of greater stability, but of greater courage, vitality and joy. I think that PBUUC is already a strong congregation, and that it is now poised on the cusp of an era of renewal. I would like to help foster that renaissance if I can.

### **How did you become a Unitarian Universalist?**

Though I can't claim to be a "birthright UU," I was raised in this faith: when I was seven years old, my parents joined the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, NY. I actually didn't participate much in the Fellowship as a child or in my teen years, but being exposed to our religion early in life had a lasting impact. In particular, seeing my parents' deep devotion to our faith and how it enriched their lives made a deep impression on me.

### **What do you like to be called?**

I'm not particular. Most folks just call me Evan, though I've learned over the years that some people prefer to call their minister "Reverend" and I've long since trained myself not to "correct" those who do so.

### **Do you have a family?**

I am blessed with a wonderful wife and two marvelous sons. Sarah and I met at the First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1996 — our first encounter was at a music committee meeting. We were married at that church in 2000. Our sons were born in 2002 and 2005. Sarah is a psychotherapist and, like me, grew up in a home where she was exposed to Unitarian Universalism — in fact, one of the things that drew us to one another when we first met was a shared devotion to this faith. She and our sons actively attend the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Virginia.

### **When you're not ministering, what else do you like to do with your time?**

I enjoy composing and arranging music. I've been known to do some singing in choruses and quartets. I enjoy playing chess; someday I hope to figure out how to get halfway decent at it.

*Evan*

The Rev. Evan Keely,  
Interim Minister  
[minister@pbuuc.org](mailto:minister@pbuuc.org)



## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

August 26, 2015

### Dear UUs in the DC Region:

UUSJ is putting together a database of those who are willing to occasionally host people coming to DC for short-term social justice actions and events. We don't expect that anyone will host more than twice a year. Hosts, of course, always have the right to decline the request. And, hosts are not expected to provide meals or transportation, or accompany guests to an action.

If you are interested in becoming an occasional host, please fill out this survey. The first opportunity to host will be next month for the Moral Action on Climate, the week of September 20.

Thank you to all who complete this survey. You will be helping to make participating in social justice issues easier for those who do not live in the area.

If you can host someone during the week of Sept. 20 or you have other questions or need more information, please contact me, Mary Pike at [marylpva@gmail.com](mailto:marylpva@gmail.com) or 202-746-4494.

Sincerely,  
Mary Pike,  
UUSJ Hospitality Committee



## Our Caring Community

### WHEEL OF LIFE

Long-time member Anne Etkin died peacefully in her sleep August 6 in South Carolina. She joined the church in 1958. Condolences to her daughters Nancy and Elizabeth.



John Holbrook is in Holy Cross Hospital with a painful back.

— Rev. Evan Keely

### September'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.

## Board of Trustees Column

Fellow Paint Branchers,

There is a lot going on here at PBUUC so I ask that you please read carefully.

First, the following individuals volunteered and then were elected as the Executive Committee for the 2015-2016 Board of Trustees: Theresa Myrdon, Chair; Liz Citrin, Vice-Chair; and Tess Morrison, Vice-Chair.

Second, the Board met at our initial retreat. Thanks to a wonderful facilitator from the JPD, we have a covenant that we hope will stand the test of time. Our covenant states that:

- We are courageous about addressing and resolving conflict.
- We practice self-care.
- We embrace our sacred stewardship of our congregation.
- We communicate honestly and clearly among ourselves and our congregation.
- We are actively, deliberately engaged as Board Members.

Each of these items have additional clarifying details yet we feel these five themes express what we have promised to each other and to you this year.

Third, during our retreat the Board created a Vision for the upcoming year at PBUUC. The Vision and associated goals for our Congregation this year are:

- Practice radical hospitality
  - Decide and act on proposed Multicultural and Multigenerational plans
  - Ensure 100% of events sponsored by the Congregation at the Church welcome all generations and cultures.
- Improve connections
  - Explore feasibility of small group ministry with recommendation due at February Town Hall
  - Increase new attendance by Members at UU meetings, conferences, training, etc by 2%
- Pursue financial sustainability
  - Operate within the established annual budget
  - Increase pledges by 3% for 2016-2017 year
  - Create line item descriptions and narratives for the Budget
  - Lay groundwork for a Capital Campaign to begin in 2016
- Enhance membership development
  - Send 4 members to CERG Regional Leadership Training

We, the Board, are not going to be able to accomplish this without your help. If you are interested in any of the above goals, please let us know.

Fourth, the Board is reviewing our Liaison system. We're not sure this is the most effective way for the Board to interact with the various committees at PBUUC. We are asking ourselves over the next few months:

1. What information does the Board need to fulfill our responsibilities?
2. How do we get this critical information?
3. What is important to PBUUC and also the job of the Board?

If you have thoughts on these questions, please share them with a Trustee.

Finally, the Board voted to change our meeting dates. The Board of Trustees will now meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each Month at 7 pm in Room 4. The Executive Committee will now "meet" two Thursdays before the Board (or the Thursday a week and a half before the Board Meeting). Because that schedule can be confusing, we are going to ensure to publish the schedule in each month's Branches, via the Facebook page, in the Bulletin, and on our website. Also, I say "meet" because the ExecCom is trying something different this year and is meeting virtually via conference call.

If you have something you want the Board to consider, please let the ExecCom know by our meeting so we can add time into the Agenda. We ask that any information for the Board to read and consider, which we call a read ahead, be provided to the Board by 11 pm the Saturday before the full Board Meeting. As always, our meetings are open to members of the congregation to observe.

Are you ready for what promises to be an exciting year? We are.

*Theresa Myrdon*, Board Chair

### September Board Meetings:

**Thursday, September 3, 8 pm**

Executive Committee (via Conference Call)

**Saturday, September 12, 11 pm**

Read-Aheads due to Board

(email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto:BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org))

**Tuesday, September 15, 7 pm**

Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

## Religious Exploration

The Multigenerational Religious Exploration (MRE) program continues to improve! The members of the MRE Team had a retreat in August to set goals and plans for the upcoming church year. I am excited to share some of that information with you!

**Youth in the Service:** The biggest and most immediate improvement that we have made is moving the Youth Group time to enrichment hour. Changing the time the youth group meets allows our Middle and High School aged youth to take part in all aspects of worship and our larger church community. Research has shown that youth who worship with adults in the main worship, are more likely to return to the church in young adulthood. We already have a youth Worship Associate, Sophie Bernheisel. Wouldn't it be exciting to add youth to our other worship aspects, like perhaps youth ushers or youth greeters?

**Birthday Buttons:** In an effort to support multigenerational community and increase our UU identity, the MRE Team will host a monthly Birthday celebration on the first Sunday of every month, starting in October, during enrichment hour. During this time, each person will get a button that says, "My birthday is in the same month as [Famous UU]. We will share fun information about each other and about famous UUs who share our birthday month.

**Mystery Buddies:** In April, the MRE Team will organize a 5 week intergenerational Mystery Buddies program that will allow us to continue to foster relationships across generations. Each person who wants to participate will be paired with a Mystery Buddy who they will learn about over the course of the five weeks.

**Adult Learning Opportunities:** The MRE Team will organize at least two adult learning opportunities. In the fall, we will offer a support group open to anyone who cares for a child in any way (aunts, uncles, grandparents, godparents, teachers, family friends, parents, siblings over the age of 18 etc.). We will be using a curriculum called, "Cultivating Kids' Social Lives in Today's Digital World: A Guide for Parents, Educators, Counselors, and Other Caring Adults". See other note in Branches for more information.

**Reaching Out to the Community:** The MRE Team is also committed to reaching beyond our walls to share our gifts with the larger community. To that end, we plan to deepen our relationship to the Paint Branch Community Learning Center by having a shared Thanksgiving meal with them. We are also interested in deepening our relationships with other community partners and are hoping to do some caroling at nearby retirement communities and/or assisted living communities.

As you can see, the MRE Team is working hard to ensure that PBUUC lives into it's vision of becoming a truly multigenerational community. Some of the programs that start-

ed last year, like the Glen Gathering, and my IKEA office hours, will continue this year. Our seasonal celebrations will also continue. So keep an eye out in ContinUUm and on Facebook, for more information.

Yours in Faith,

*Dayna.*

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration  
[DRE@pbuuc.org](mailto:DRE@pbuuc.org)

### Announcements:

Join our Building a UU Village Support Group starting this fall. The support group is open to anyone who cares for a child in any way (aunts, uncles, grandparents, godparents, teachers, family friends, parents, RE teachers, mentors, siblings over the age of 18 etc.). We will be using a curriculum called, "Cultivating Kids' Social Lives in Today's Digital World: A Guide for Parents, Educators, Counselors, and Other Caring Adults". See other note in Branches for more information. The group will meet from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm at the same time as 4th – 6th grade OWL on the following dates: 9/20; 10/4; 10/18; 11/1; 11/15; 12/6; 12/20 and 1/10). For more information or to RSVP, please contact Dayna Edwards at [dre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dre@pbuuc.org) or 301-937-3666.

**There are still two openings for Storytellers and Doorkeepers** for our 1st – 3rd grade Spirit Play class. Have fun, foster intergenerational friendships, and learn more about our six sources: volunteer today! The commitment is one hour, two Sundays per month, with minimal preparation time. Contact Dayna Edwards for more information at [dre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dre@pbuuc.org).

A BIG THANK YOU to all who have spent time on a Sunday, helping to make our outdoor classroom a reality. It has become an amazing project that has been helped by so many hands. It is heartwarming to see so many people living into the reality of Beloved Community through this project. A special thank you to Stephanie Walters and Brent Walters, who have been leading this project with expert hands.

### Save the Dates:

**Sunday, October 4, from 11:45 am – 12:45 pm: Our first Birthday Button Celebration will take place.** If your birthday is in October, or if you're just in the mood to party, join us in Rooms 2 and 3 for fun, food, and games.

**Sunday October 25, from noon – 2 pm: Trunk or Treat.** Get dressed up and dress up your trunk for this fun and popular multigenerational event.

**Sunday, November 22 from 3 pm – 5 pm: We will host a multigenerational, multicultural Thanksgiving meal** with participants from the Paint Branch Community Learning Center.

**Saturday, December 5 (time TBD): we will have our annual multigenerational caroling and tree trimming party.**

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

### Stop The 'Hatin' Vigil Draws Members & Visitors

On August 9, 50 members and visitors—some from nearby Unitarian Universalist congregations—came together to commemorate the anniversary of the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team planned the vigil on short notice in response to the call from UU Leaders for UUs to express solidarity with UU and other activists galvanized by this and other killings.

The Vigil featured readings, reflections, poetry, instrumental, and vocal music and rituals of healing.

We lifted up the names of 24 black men killed by police in the past year—who were grimly featured on the front page of *The Washington Post* that very morning; and 15 women who were killed in the recent past as documented by *The Huffington Post*. Each person present was asked to stand and read the name, age and location of one person killed while the rest of the Congregation, responded: "Stop The Hatin." We hope to place as much as we can on the PBUUC website shortly.

Thank you to all who participated, particularly our new Minister, Evan Keely, who gave the Welcome; Community Minister Archene Turner who provided the Call To Worship and a Closing Litany; and Dayna Edwards, Director, Multigenerational Religious Exploration, who provided a poem and Reflections.

Without all of the loving willingness of the following participants, this Vigil could not have happened. They were: Markus Williams, Artistic Director, Human Symphony Foundation; Mary Tyrte Rooker; Carol Carter Walker; Carmelita Carter-Sykes; Tricia Most; Leo Jones; Allison Hughes; Jeanne Judd; Sabrina Jones; Louise Warner; Michael Benfield, Member, Cedar Lane UU Church; Pat Behenna; Don Gerson; Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson; and Amy Williams.

### Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting Tuesday, September 8

DARTT's next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 from 7 to 9 pm in Room 4, Religious Exploration Building.

DARTT's major focus is to create a safe space for members of the PBUUC community to talk about issues of race and ethnicity by personal sharing; and by sponsoring services, events, and activities designed to facilitate the congregation's implementation of its intentional multiculturalism resolution. We will continue program planning for the year. All are welcome. If you can't attend, but have ideas or suggestions, please send them to

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

*Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair, DARTT*

### The Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland: A Transformative Experience

— Carol Carter Walker

*To me young people come first, they  
have the courage where we failed  
And if I can but shed some light as they  
carry us through the gale*

*The older I get the better I know that the secret of my going on  
Is when the reins are in the hands of the young who dare  
to run against the storm*



Lines from *Ella's Song (We Who Believe In Freedom)* by Bernice Johnson Reagon pulsed through my mind, heart and soul throughout the July 24-26 Movement For Black Lives (MBL) Convening on the campus of Cleveland State University. They are still resounding.

The Millennials who planned, organized, and attended the MBL convening are folks who could be highly successful in the halls of academe or commerce. They have the smarts, the drive, and the education. But they have chosen to make sacrifices of personal comfort and forego material gain to found and sustain the civil rights movement of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

As a middle-aged senior who had been more observer than full out activist, participating in the Convening was a privilege. The Reverend James Reeb Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) subsidized attendance of about 20 UUs—lay, staff and clergy—at the Convening. Thank you, UUA, for seizing this moment to be relevant in the wider world.

The planners initially expected about 200. About 1,200 showed up. All were housed and provided with two meals daily on the campus and in nearby hotels and motels and other campuses. Busloads came from Oakland, California; New Orleans, Chicago, New York and Washington, DC.

Many arrived without firm housing reservations, knowing the importance of being there and trusting that they'd find housing. (And they did. I heard no one complain that there was 'no room in the inn.')

*That which touches me most is that I had a chance to work with people  
Passing on to others that which was passed on to me*

I arrived at midday on Thursday and was immediately put to work phone banking on housing arrangements. I was energized by the democracy and inclusiveness of the last-minute planning process. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., recognized a few nights before he was killed, "I might not get to the mountaintop with you, but I know that we will, as a people, get there."

## Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team, cont.

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest*

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes*

On Friday, the formal program began at 10:00 am with a short welcome to Cleveland. The group then departed to begin the first of four segments that offered more than 100 workshops in four tracks: Culture, Organizing, Imagining, Healing and Cleveland. There was parallel programming for children and for white allies. At every opportunity—lunch, downtime, there was spontaneous singing, chanting and drumming. Classic Man and Alright were the weekend's anthems.

*Until the killing of Black men, Black mothers' sons*

*Is as important as the killing of White men, White mothers' sons*

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest*

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes*

The mid-afternoon Opening featured a moving ceremony honoring the families of those who had lost loved ones due to police killings. Michael Brown's father, Tamir Rice's mother and so many others told personal anecdotes about their children and ended with the response, "And this is why I fight." I was fortunate to be part of a small ensemble who sang "I Need You To Survive" as part of the tribute to families of the fallen.

The Convening broke early. On our own, some of us rode downtown to see a bit more of Cleveland. Many young folks went to a party at one of the private clubs in Cleveland.

Saturday's Plenary Session, "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free" began by using red, green and yellow cards to get a quick sense of the focus of how to prioritize all of our concerns. Participants were encouraged to talk about these in small groups and to send summaries of their discussions to #MBL. Facilitators were waiting there to summarize our collective findings and use them to refine the agenda on our final day.

*We rise together. We throw no one under the bus.*

(From Black Lives Matter Guiding Principles)

But then, #MBL Leaders—in another brilliantly strategic move—tossed the planned agenda in favor of hearing directly from those most affected.

On Friday night, there had been two ugly incidents involving transgender women at the club party. One transgender woman had been asked to have her bag searched although there she was able to point out at least two others already let inside with bags bigger than hers who didn't have to be searched. In a second incident, a transgender woman was barred from using the bathroom of her choice. A group of 30 trans people came onto the platform, explained their hurt at being marginalized—even in this group where they had been leaders and planners. It was about not having

gender-neutral bathrooms on the Campus. It was about not lifting up the transgender women who had been murdered in the previous day's memorial. It was about straight folks not showing up at the workshops about any aspects of transgender lives and pain. It was not asking by which pronouns they wanted to be addressed. The experience made me think of the homophobia and sexism of the 20<sup>th</sup> century civil rights movement. Bayard Rustin, who was a brilliant behind the scenes planner for the 1963 March On Washington, was kept under wraps, more for his sexual identity than for his radicalism. No woman was asked to speak at the 1963 March.

I scrapped my plans for a governance workshop and went to a transformative session, "Liberation Can't Wait: How Black Queer and Transgender Folks Can and Must Be At The Forefront Of The LGBTQ Movement for full equality and liberation. I also went to a film showing about Out In the Night about the jailing of queer women for fighting back against an assault. Wow! I have both a deeper understanding and thirst to understand more about the folks who live on the margins of the margins.

*Not needing to clutch for power, not needing the light just to shine on me*

*I need to be one in the number as we stand against tyranny*

At the final Sunday session, we continued plans to take our learnings back to our local areas and organizations for implementation.

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest*

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes*

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest*

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes*

## Social Action Committee (SAC) News



**The Event:** The Washington area's 2nd annual Immigration Film Festival, sharing immigrant experiences through informative, entertaining movies.

**What's New:** The FilmFest's all-volunteer team just launched a 30-day crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo, and we need your help.

**What To Do:** Click below to learn more about the FilmFest and why your contribution counts, plus the perks that go along with your fully tax-deductible gift and the matching fund that will double it. <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/immigration-film-festival/x/8112842#/story>

**And Then:** Join us October 22-25 for the FilmFest featuring 26 films at 16 locations, post-film discussions and a red-

### Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:

Saturday, September 19th, 10 am – 12:30 pm  
in Room 4 of the RE Building



## PAINT BRANCH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

### ARE YOU THE ONE ?

**Are you the one to change the world one person at a time?**

Are you the one to help someone get a better job, learn to talk to their doctor or their child's teacher, or achieve citizenship? Become a teacher of English in our **PAINT BRANCH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER** this fall. Or be a walk-in assistant whenever you can.

There is always something you can do: pass out flyers, help with registration, help with child care.

Sign up in the Meeting House Foyer for the fall term. Call Carmelita Carter-Sykes at 202 236 8783 or email at [cartercarmelita@aol.com](mailto:cartercarmelita@aol.com).

#### FALL CALENDAR

REGISTRATION	Sundays	September 6, 13 2015
TRAINING	Saturday	September 12, 2015
CLASSES START	Sunday	September 20, 2015

## In and Around Paint Branch

### Music at Paint Branch presents 2 Flats and a Piano Player



**its first recital of the 2015-16 concert series**

**Sunday, September 27 at 4 pm**

**featuring David Chapman, pianist.**

The program "2 Flats and a Piano Player" will showcase musical compositions that have 2 flats in the key signature; 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.

### Meet Our New Member



**Margaret Stricklett** first came to PBUUC for the 2012 Christmas Eve service. That service, led by Rev. Diane Teichert, made a strong impression on her, including Diane's kind expression and brief words of good bye after the service, which Margaret found to be very healing. She also liked the principle of acceptance that she found at Paint Branch. Towards the end of 2013, her mother passed away and she felt the need to connect spiritually with a community. Her Sundays had previously been filled with singing commitments, since she had worked on Sundays singing in church choirs since the age of 18, until 2008 when she stopped singing in church choirs and began teaching voice on Sundays. She decided to clear her Sunday commitments and signed the Membership Book on March 22, 2015. She continues to teach voice and sings with the Washington National Opera, where she has been a member since 1982, with eight years on the roster as soloist. Margaret has a master's degree in music with a specialization in vocal opera. Using singing and breathing for relaxation, she also enjoys reading about meditation and neurology, and is interested in a holistic approach to singing. She currently lives in Greenbelt with her husband Michael. In November of 2015 they will celebrate their 33rd anniversary. Welcome to Paint Branch, Margaret!

*Submitted by Renée Katz on behalf of the Membership Team*

### Will You Help Introduce PBUUC at UMD?

Each September, at the start of the school year, the University of Maryland, College Park, hosts a First Look Fair. The Fair is held to introduce students to the student clubs and organizations, campus departments and services, local vendors, and community service agencies available to them. This year the PBUUC Membership Committee will participate in the Fair with the hope of introducing UMD students and faculty to PBUUC and, through us, to Unitarian Universalism.

The Fair will be held for two days, five hours each day: Wednesday, September 16 from 10 am to 3 pm and Thursday, September 17 from 9 am to 2 pm We are looking for volunteers to help us staff our PBUUC table at the fair for a couple of hours each day.

Do you believe that PBUUC has a lot to offer? Would you like to see PBUUC grow? Are you willing to talk to students and faculty about what PBUUC has to offer—spirited worship, ready companionship, and opportunities for religious explorations of many kinds in an environment that affirms human diversity, freedom of conscience, and the use of reason? Can you donate one to two hours on September 16 or 17? If you are willing to help, please contact Janet Overton at

[janmo12@verizon.net](mailto:janmo12@verizon.net).



## Ethnic & Regional American Dinners

### CUBA GRACIAS

Because Cuba had recently grabbed the headlines and we were looking for a tropical or sub-tropical country as the theme for our July 25th Ethnic Dinner, that appeared to be a good choice. In May 1997 it had been a part of our Caribbean Dinner, and I fondly remembered its “Calypso” Roast Pork and Black Bean Soup. In attempting to build the rest of the menu around those, the surprising obstacle our research revealed is that traditional Cuban dishes aren’t widely eaten in Cuba these days. The Castro government has rationed foods not designated for export and outlawed those related to religious festivals or celebrations. So now, to find typical Cuban cuisine, you must look in south Florida where Cuban ex-pats are still clinging to their traditions.

I personally encountered problems when I took on two dishes not signed up for by anyone else, in addition to the three I was already preparing, and guessed I could make the rice as well because how hard could that be? Then one cook called and cancelled, and it was too late to find a substitute for that dish. Seven dishes is manageable if spread out over 3 days, but since most had to be made entirely or finished on the day of the dinner, having all done by 5 pm was very challenging. As a result, I and those dishes arrived 10 minutes after the first food should have been put out, and I still needed help to reheat and plate most of what I brought. So, my first thanks go to those who pitched in with that. I know they included Cathy Helmold, Anita Williams, Liz Citrin, and Elaine Shell, and I’m sure there were others as well. The Meeting House had already been completely set up by Tess Morrison, Elaine Shell, Ed Greville, Liz Citrin, Margaret McLellan, Ali Mohamed, Anita Williams and I believe Keith Miller and Debra Street. Wyatt Rexach was playing the Cuban music provided by Margaret McLellan and Doug Ingelsrud. Mike Stark and Sonja Meredith had the bar up and running. The Samples (formerly Appetizers), minus those I was responsible for and another that never got there, had been set out and were being consumed. Ethelyn Bishop had found a way to tend the door without the ticket list, tickets or money which I was bringing. See! An Ethnic Dinner can happen without me!

In addition to these folks, our cooks included Margaret McLellan, Don Gerson, Jeri Holloway, Tricia Most, Elaine Shell, Alice Tyler, Jaime and Kevin Stark, Chris Evans, Cathy Helmold, Tess Morrison, and Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson who set out the tea cart. Don Gerson was also taking pictures.

My final mess-up was that I usually wander around during clean-up and jot down the names of those who are doing it so I can properly thank them here; few ever sign the volunteer sheet. I did that this time, but now have misplaced that list. I’ll name those I can remember with apologies to those I leave out. Nancy Boardman, Carol Boston, Jaime Stark (her first Ethnic Dinner, but she cooked and knows how to run our dishwasher!), Muriel Morisey, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Mike Stark, Sonja Meredith, Cathy Helmold, Ken and Jan Montville. The crew in the Meeting House was led by building manager, Wyatt Rexach, and those in the kitchen included Keith Miller and Debra Street who stayed until every dish was washed and put away. I know there were more who I can’t recall right now. Thanks to all!

Thanks also to all who attended the dinner and those who patronized the leftover sale the following day. This dinner netted \$751.75. The next dinner is Oct. 24, and still in search of a theme.

### NO MORE ETHNIC DINNERS?

Just because this has been a long time coming, does not make it any easier to do; just more urgent. I reluctantly have to call an end to the Ethnic Dinners, or at least to my intensive involvement with them. I have tried to suggest this several times before, hoping for some volunteers to share the heavy lifting. We get a lot of good help with each dinner. I’m fully aware of and appreciative of that, but some of what falls to me, now needs to be shared and responsibility for it shouldered by 3 or 4 people. Such a group effort was what was envisioned when a group of us generated the idea for the dinners 27 years ago. Somehow, it has not worked out that way. So I have been doing scheduling, committee contacts, publicity, ticket selling, menu planning, recipe gathering/copying, recruiting volunteers, contacting cooks, obtaining music, researching, writing and delivering the talk, making labels, cooking four or more dishes, cleaning up, doing the leftover sale, collecting and managing plastic containers, reimbursing cooks, doing the final accounting, and thanking everyone afterwards.

I hate admitting age could be part of my problem (it never was before!), but I’m 27 years older than I was when the dinners began. Everything I’ve learned in the process and the experience I’ve gained, help some, but not enough. I will celebrate, or at least observe, my 75th birthday this fall. I find that everything seems to take longer to accomplish, and it’s painful to be on my feet for an extended time.

We just completed our 68th dinner. I will still organize the 69th and 70th dinners in October and March, completing all 3 for fiscal year 2015/2016. I can either do these as I normally do, and then be finished, or I can do them with a self-selected group of volunteers who are willing to work with me and “learn the ropes” with an eye to taking over in the next fiscal year. I’ll even offer this bonus. I’m anticipating a trip to Hawaii in December. Ethnic Dinners held a Luau in July 2005 which was a lot of fun. I can collect some more ideas and ingredients on my trip and we can do another Luau next July. Or not. To make that the wonderful party it has the potential to be will require a lot more planning and work than an ordinary Ethnic Dinner. If there is sufficient interest, enthusiasm and help, we can do this. If it’s left entirely up to me, it can’t/won’t happen, and the dinners may be history.

Ethnic Dinners began in 1988 as a fund-raiser to procure money for completing the Meeting House kitchen. We accomplished that goal by the time the rest of the building was finished, and have kept them going since then, helping to maintain the kitchen and contribute to the operating budget. In contemplating bringing the dinners to an end, this financial aspect can’t be ignored. The net proceeds have grown from several hundred dollars per dinner in the beginning to about a thousand each more recently. If the average was only \$500 per dinner (and I’m sure it exceeds that) they have earned \$34,000 for the church. I believe the dinners are one of the least painful, most enjoyable ways to raise money for PBUUC, and I don’t know what alternative there would be if they stop.

If the dinners continue, I’ll still be here. I will pass along everything I’ve learned, what works and what doesn’t. I’ll assist with planning, loan my cookbooks, attend as often as I can, and volunteer to cook or help in some way. But I can no longer continue to be responsible at the level I have been. It’s now someone else’s turn!

Marilyn Pearl

### 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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