



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

December 2015

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Nursery Care in Room 6 from 9:45-12:45
Refreshments and Fellowship after the service
Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45
Childcare until 12:45

DECEMBER 6

DEDICATION

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Carol Carter Walker and Sophie Bernheisel, Worship Associates; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multi-generational Religious Exploration; and the Children's Choir

The Festival of Lights in the Jewish tradition is an opportunity for us to remember what is most sacred to us.

DECEMBER 13 LOVE BORN AGAIN: THE TRUTH OF DREAM

The PBUUC Choir Directed by David Chapman; with Rev. Keely; Noel Monardes Worship Associate; and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; and the Children's Choir

Holiday Choir Service - The PBUUC choir will present its annual Holiday Service featuring traditional French, Spanish and Bulgarian carols and a "Christmas Goes Classical" medley with an explosive ending. And you won't want to miss a sweet collaboration with the Children's Choir on "May All Children Everywhere."

DECEMBER 20 THE LONGEST NIGHT

Rev. Keely; with Will Snyder, Worship Associate; and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration
Holiday Cultures throughout the world have recognized the winter solstice as a special moment in the year. What can it mean for us?

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

FAMILY SERVICE - 4:30PM

Rev. Keely and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; with Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate; and the Children's Choir

A Christmas Eve celebration for all ages. Children and youth are invited to remain in the Meetinghouse for the entire service.

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS - 7:30 PM

Rev. Keely; with Noel Monardes Worship Associate; and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

A service of readings and song for Christmas Eve.

DECEMBER 27

HERI ZA KWANZAA

The Members of the Diversity and Anti-Racism Transformation Team; with Carol Carter-Walker, Worship Associate
PBUUC's DARTT members lead our annual Kwanzaa service.

Minister's Column



So much of what we take for granted is not necessarily what we assume it is. We think of "Jingle Bells" as a Christmas carol, even though it has nothing whatsoever to do with any religious observance; it would actually be even more appropriate to sing that song in February, which of course no one does. Wonderfully decorated evergreen trees, wreaths, and mistletoe are indissolubly linked with Christmas, even though those symbols predate Christianity and have no ostensible connection to the Christian religion. We think Hanukkah is eight days because of the story of the one day's worth of sanctified oil that miraculously burned in the rededicated Jerusalem temple for eight days, even though Hanukkah had already been an eight-day celebration for about six centuries before that imaginative bit of Talmudic embellishment was written down. We often make these assumptions and suppositions without conscious awareness, and when we examine them we might well find a whole new world opening up for us.

Do we make similarly unwitting assumptions and suppositions about our faith? Do we have ideas about what Unitarian Universalism "should" or "shouldn't" be that we simply haven't bothered to question? Do we assume that certain customs, attitudes, words and symbols don't belong in our practices — even though they might well be if we chose to interpret them our own way? Do we give of ourselves to the cause of our faith as much — or as little — as we do because no one, including ourselves, ever asked us why we don't give more — or less? Do we find ourselves ensnared in that trap, all too easy to fall into, of justifying ourselves with "But we've always done it that way!" without really asking ourselves and each other if that way is really what's best for us — or whether or not we have, in fact, really always done it "that way"?

One of the greatest blessings of our faith is the high value we place upon inquiry. Indeed, our religious path essentially obliges us to question unceasingly, to probe the depths of even our most cherished assumptions in a lifelong search for greater understanding, for greater truth. A transitional time like this one is an ideal time to ask of ourselves and each other: Who are we? What are we proud of about ourselves, and how can we continue to nurture that part of who we are? What do we wish were different, and how can we change? It is a time when old, unquestioned assumptions need to be examined candidly. That can be disorienting and anxiety-provoking. But if we trust in ourselves and one another, it can also be invigorating and liberating.

May we all be blessed this holiday season with cherished convictions and new discoveries alike.

Evan — The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister
minister@pbuuc.org

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2015-2016 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair	Theresa Myrdon
Vice Chair	Liz Citrin
Vice Chair	Tess Morrison
Trustee	John Barr
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
	Carol Carter Walker
	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson
Electronic Communications	contact church office
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl
Finance	Patty Daukantas
Green Team	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Leasing (contact)	Church Office
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Membership	Janet Overton
Ministry	Susannah Schiller
Nominating	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration (co-chairs)	Patricia Most & Elizabeth Porter
Site Improvement	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Social Action	Nancy Boardman
Stewardship	Chris Evans
Transition Team	Transition@pbuuc.org

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Carol Carter Walker
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Liz Citrin
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield
Mediation Program	David Haberman
Meditation Group	Cory Carter
Men's Group	Mike Stark
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

🌀 Minister 🌀

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

[Interim Minister](#)

The Rev. Evan Keely

🌀 Staff 🌀

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

[Music Director & Pianist](#)

David Chapman

[Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration](#)

Dayna Edwards

[Church Administrator](#)

Sharon Werth

[Administrative Assistant](#)

Charles Bury

[Bookkeeper](#)

vacant

Sunday Service/Building Managers:

Debra McCann

Child Care Providers:

Romeo Ndonfak

Wyatt Rexach

Jazmin Balbuena

Beth Judy

Alexis Saunders

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tues), Will Snyder (Wed),

Alice Tyler (Thur), Janet Overton (Fri)

Board of Trustees Column

Fellow PBUUC'ers,

The Board did not have a full meeting this month. Due to various personal emergencies and illnesses, we were unable to meet on our regularly scheduled night. We did meet on two other occasions.

First, the Board held a conference call with Mark Ewert, a congregational stewardship consultant for the Unitarian Universalist Association. What we discussed during that call is what a Congregation needs for a significant stewardship project, otherwise known as a Capital Campaign. Mr. Ewert advised that before a congregation moves toward a Capital Campaign that it have a well developed 5-10 year Strategic Plan that melds with its Church vision and mission. The Board will discuss this more in depth at our December meeting.

Second, the Board met briefly to ensure that in the absence of a Church Secretary that there is a plan for reviewing our Membership as those numbers are due to the UUA at the end of January. We also approved PBUUC's continued involvement in the UU Common Endowment Fund, which is undergoing major legal structure changes to reduce risk to the Congregations involved. Ken Montville has more details on that if you are truly interested.

December's Meeting will have a packed agenda. Outside of the normal Board business, I want to thank everyone who has coordinated, helped, participated, and supported the numerous stewardship events at Paint Branch in the last few months. In closing, I wish you Happy Holidays and the best of health, happiness, and peace throughout the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Theresa Myrdon,
Board Chair

December Board Meetings:

Thursday, December 3, 8 pm
Executive Committee (via Conference Call)

Saturday, December 12, 11 pm
Read-Aheads due to Board
(email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Tuesday, December 15, 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

Religious Exploration

The last time I spoke to my uncle Vic was about 11 years ago when my step-father died and he came to our house to share his condolences. He didn't have to visit. He and my aunt (my mother's sister) had been divorced for a few years by then, but that's the type of guy he is. He sits with the grieving family – because that's the right thing to do.

There's no good reason that we haven't spoken other than, I grew up, he moved to Florida, and he doesn't have Facebook. Despite our lack of communication right now, he had (and has) a profound impact on my life. I can make a direct link between my uncle Vic and my current employment as a professional religious educator. I am sharing this with you, to illustrate how any caring adult, not just a parent, can change a person's life.

My uncle Vic's daughter, Melissa, was five month's younger than me and for a good part of our childhood we were best friends. Our childhood friendship meant many sleepovers at each other's houses. Whenever possible, I would try to sleep over Melissa's house, instead of her sleeping over mine, because I knew that when I slept over at Melissa's we would have to go to church on Sunday morning. No matter how late we stayed up giggling, no matter how uncomfortable the floor was where we choose to sleep in our sleeping bags, we were going to church first thing Sunday morning. We went to the 7:30am Mass every Sunday I slept over, no matter what – no negotiation. Empty bellies, sleep still in our eyes, we would get in the car and silently drive to the large Catholic Church, named after St. Francis of Assisi, where my cousin also attended parochial school.

I never told anyone this as a child, but I loved going to St. Francis on Sundays. I loved the ritual. I loved memorizing The Lord's Prayer. I loved that could, ask God to forgive me my "trespasses" and I could forgive those who "trespassed" against me. I loved that regardless of what else was going on in the world, the same things would happen in the same order every Sunday. There was also something very spiritual and healing about the bodily worship of the Catholic Mass kneeling down, and getting up, standing up, and sitting down, almost like a Catholic Sun Salutation. I would always space out during the homily, because that seemed like unnecessary adult talk, and during the homily, I would try to decipher the pictures on the stained glass windows. I would stare at the statue of the Virgin Mary and I would will her to do something magical, something to let me know that God was real; she never did. My uncle Vic gave me a gift that I did not receive from anyone else, the gift of worship, of church, as a safe and predictable place.

He didn't know it (I don't think), but I watched my uncle Vic, because he gave me the gift of church, and noticed the other actions he took, that were, for him, just the right thing to do. He mentored my brother. He took my cousin

Religious Exploration *continued*

and me to visit ailing older aunts. He swam with us in the pool and cooked on the grill at cookouts. Is he a "saint"? No. He is and was a fallible, human soul, just like the rest of us, but in his fallibility he taught me that we always know in our hearts what the "right thing to do" is, and even if we mess up, we can always go back to our basic sense of knowing the right thing to do.

Now that I am an adult, about the same age as my uncle Vic was when I was watching him, I am aware of all of the children who are watching me, maybe even your children. The fact is, being a part of any community (in your family, in school, in church), means that you are already in relationship with multiple generations and you have an opportunity to give the gift of church and worship to someone.

I wonder, who in your life, young or old, needs the gift of church. Can you bring them on Sunday?

Yours in Faith, *Dayna,*



Once upon a time, there was a wise and generous woman named Otilie Van Allen who was a member Paint Branch UU Church. She was a prolific knitter. She loved to knit hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. She organized several women in the church to help her make items to

keep people warm. They would sell these items in the cold months and donate the proceeds of their sales to the church. Then, people would bring the items they bought back to church and with the children's help, they would decorate a "mitten tree." The items on the mitten tree were then donated to a local elementary school.

We continue the tradition of the mitten tree today in honor of Otilie and her handicraft circle compatriots. You will have a chance to purchase items for the mitten tree over the next few Sundays, or you can bring your own items in to put on the Mitten Tree.

Our Caring Community



Wheel of Life

On November 7th, a memorial service was held in the Kelley Room for one of PBUUC earliest members, Anne Etkin.

Peter Wathen-Dunn and Muriel Morisey are filled with joy that Peter's daughter, Kirsten Erika Davis-Dunn, was married to Erik Perez-Allard, a wonderful young man who brings her great happiness, on Sunday, November 15, 2015 in the Meeting House.

December'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.



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

UUs for a Just Economic Community

We are now in the second year of the CSAI (Congregation Study Action Initiative) on Escalating Inequality that was passed at GA in 2014. UUJEC had important accomplishments in 2015:

- 1) Networked with congregations to assist them with promoting and providing educational materials related to economic inequality and its correction;
- 2) Organized an Economic Justice Conference in Evanston IL in Feb of 2015. There were over 100 participants from over 40 congregations, many from out of the Chicago region. A second conference was held at UU headquarters in Boston in May;
- 3) Provided input to the UUA task force commissioned to create a study guide on Economic Inequality as well as creating our own curriculum and posting others from congregations;
- 4) Hired a consultant to help us update our website with easy-to-use resource materials and actions for their congregations and communities. Check it out at

www.uujec.com

In the coming year, UUJEC's next steps include:

- 1) Two conferences (so far!), growing out of our work to combat Economic Inequality, concentrated on local efforts: "Economic Justice in Ventura County," February 20; and a summit in Ashland for Southern Oregon in March.
- 2) Development of a draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) to start the conversation in congregations on what they would like to see in the SOC on Economic Inequality at GA 2017;
- 3) A survey of our activists leading to a retreat for the UUJEC Board to do strategic planning on how UUJEC can best serve congregations and our justice movement in years to come;
- 4) Co-sponsorship of workshops at GA 2016 and in Districts and Regions on actions being taken to reduce economic inequality;
- 5) Development of further easy-access resources and links on ways to impact your local communities in meaningful ways.

UUJEC board members are available to consult with congregations to develop local projects and networks to create a more equitable economic system. We invite you to share with us your success stories and material. Our website and study materials are a work-in-progress which benefit from our work together. ... Questions? Thoughts? Your materials? Please contact us at info@uujec.com Or look at the [About Us/UUJEC Leadership](#) column of the website for individual board members' e-mail addresses. We are so appreciative for the study, work and celebration you do in your congregations and communities to further the cause of economic justice.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

At SAC's November 21st meeting a number of important matters were discussed and decided on. As agreed to earlier, we'll be meeting with representatives from Habitat for Humanity at Paint Branch on Monday, November 23rd to learn more about how we can partner with them. We'll also be continuing our work with the Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) by attending a grand opening on Tuesday, December 1st of their new energy efficient prototype home designed to be affordable for lower income home owners. Other affordable housing initiatives were also discussed.

We planned special collections for January, February, and March 2016 and also reviewed updated special collections guidelines. We agreed to help pay for a new rainbow flag for Paint Branch because the former one is missing. Additionally we agreed to recommend that the Hope Christian Academy banner at the entrance to Paint Branch be taken down on the weekends so it is clear that Paint Branch is a Unitarian Universalist Church - as our new roadside sign indicates. Also their banner makes it an unsafe walk from the bus-stop because one has to walk around it in the street to enter Paint Branch.

We agreed to go with the religious exploration folks to help out at the Capital Area Food Bank. Updates were also given about UUSJ and our fair share contribution for this church year. And a reminder that the annual meeting of the UULM-MD will be on Saturday, January 23rd at the UU Church of Annapolis - along with a new brochure about their important activities. Work continues on updating the social justice brochure and arranging a speaker on wage stagnation. SAC also continues its strong support for our Community Learning Center and its English classes - with a recommendation on how its childcare expenses can be shared with those of the religious exploration program on Sunday afternoons.

Internationally we discussed the UUSC's call for supporting 200,000 Syrian refugees seeking safe haven in the United States - far more than the 15,000 to date agreed to by the State Department. Also Maryland Governor Hogan's stand of not accepting refugees was criticized by the organization Peace Action Montgomery in a flyer handed out about how to organize against his position.

SAC is not meeting in December because of all the holiday activities. Please join us when we meet again on Saturday morning, January 16th from 10 - 12:30 in Room #4 of the RE Building!

SAC Chair,
Nancy Boardman
SAC@pbuuc.org

Special Collections

On October 18, we contributed \$743 to a UU Church in Kenya that is trying to develop a business of making water filters. This donation went through "Faithify" and the UU Church of Tallahassee. On November 22, we gave \$400 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

In December, we have a tradition at our Christmas Eve services of giving the entire plate to our Warm Nights program of housing the homeless for a week, so there will be no envelopes, as everything goes to this very special collection.

Coming up:

- ❖ in January - the International Rescue Committee (IRC) that aids refugees,
- ❖ In February - the Capital Area Food Bank, and
- ❖ in March - UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ) in the local area.

- Marj Donn



Carmelita Carter-Sykes Receives Award at UUSJ Gala.

Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting Schedule:

Here are the Social Action Committee (SAC) monthly meeting dates through June 2016. As usual they fall on the third Saturday of a month - from 10 - 12:30 in Room 4 of the RE Building.

- ❖ Cancelled - December 19, 2015 SAC Meeting.
- ❖ Saturday morning, January 16, 2016
- ❖ Saturday morning, February 20, 2016
- ❖ Saturday Morning, March 19, 2016
- ❖ Saturday Morning, April 16, 2016
- ❖ Saturday Morning, May 21, 2016
- ❖ Saturday Morning, June 18, 2015 (tentative)

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting Tuesday, December 15, At 7:00 PM, Room 4, Religious Exploration Building. All are invited to our monthly meetings. There are two components: Sharing

joys and concerns about issues related to diversity at Paint Branch and the wider community; and planning for upcoming events. At the December 15 Meeting, we'll focus on discussing the outcomes and next steps of our two meetings on the proposed Congregational Multicultural Plan for implementation of the 2011 congregational resolution on becoming an intentional multicultural congregation, including a proposal to hang a Black Lives Matter sign on church property.

All are welcome!

Got questions, comments or other feedback? Contact dartt@pbuuc.org

Carol Carter Walker, DARTT Co-Chair

Heri za Kwanzaa at PBUUC

Happy Kwanzaa! Come celebrate PBUUC's All Ages Kwanzaa Service and Sharing Feast, Sunday, December 27. The Service will be led by Dayna Edwards, Director, Multigenerational Religious Exploration; and the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team. The Chalice Dancers will be featured.



PBUUC's Kwanzaa services are designed to be an annual celebration to reaffirm and reinforce the bonds between us all, to remind us that we each have inherent worth and dignity, and to bring us together as a multicultural community. Everyone is invited to Kwanzaa, a secular celebration of the resilience of Africans worldwide and of African-Americans and their culture.

Resilience and the need for community are inherent in people of African descent and certainly in African Americans. Despite slavery and its continuing legacy—racism, the old Jim Crow, the new Jim Crow, disenfranchisement, redlining, continuous police violence against black people, and more—we survive through love of family and belief in the goodness of the majority of our fellow human beings. The seven principles of Kwanzaa:

- (1) *umoja*/unity;
- (2) *kujichagulia*/self-determination;
- (3) *ujima*/collective work and responsibility;
- (4) *ujamaa*/cooperative economics;
- (5) *nia*/purpose;
- (6) *kuumba*/creativity; and
- (7) *imani*/faith

speak directly to the communitarian vision and values of African cultures throughout time and throughout the world.

Both the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa and the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism evolved within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, and both are drawn from diverse sources. And like UU Principles, the Principles of Kwanzaa call for sustained reflection on what it means to be human, especially in terms of how we understand and live our lives and engage the critical issues confronting our families, our community, and the world.

So please come on Sunday, December 27, for the Service and the Feast.



2015 to 2024 Declared the International Decade for People of African Descent

Did you know that on February 7, 2014, by resolution 68/237, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2015 to 2024 to be the International Decade for People of African Descent? The resolution “provides a solid framework for the United Nations, Member States, civil society, and all other relevant actors to join together with people of African descent and take effective measures for the implementation of the program of activities in the spirit of recognition, justice, and development.”

www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/

Please visit the UU United Nations Office website: www.uua.org/international/un to find out about UU UNO's support of this resolution and how everyone can participate. UU UNO is our UU presence at the United Nations.

Ethnic Dinners

VIVE LA FRANCE! MERCI BEAUCOUP!

Writing this in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Paris feels ironic. Usually, news stories precede and inspire the themes chosen for Ethnic Dinners; not the other way around. May the people of France rise above this tragedy and reclaim the *Joie de Vivre* which accompanies the good dining they are famous for which inspired this dinner. This was our 3rd French dinner, and it demonstrated Ethnic Dinners' evolution over the past 27 years by displaying our progression from simply French, to regional French, to French adaptation of other countries' dishes and ingredients. A few of you seemed upset by my comment that apple pie is not American; that the apples and pastry came here with the English, and they learned pastry from the French. Will it help then, if I say apple pie is every bit as American as pizza?

Merci beaucoup barely covers our appreciation to all who contributed to this dinner. Arriving early to set up were Don & Beth Henderson, Ethelyn Bishop, Anita Williams, Marie Gore, Andy Myrup, Elizabeth Yanowitch, and Dave and Becky Nation. My determination to be there early after being so late for the last dinner, almost worked. Halfway there, I realized I'd left "the book" at home, so had to turn around, go back and start over. Ethelyn, once again did an outstanding job of tending the door without the ticket list, tickets, or cash for change. Mike Stark and Sonja Meredith set up the bar and provided well researched authentic French wines, Calvados, cider and other liquid refreshments. *Chefs extraordinaire* included Tess Morrison, Richard Côté, Cathy Helmold, Chris Evans, Don Gerson, Elaine Shell, Ethelyn Bishop, Margaret McLellan, Marilyn Pearl, Tina Van Pelt, Kathy Kearns, Wendy Schlegel, Noel Monardes, and Lori Snyder who prepared pears (poached in wine) from her own tree! Recorded French music was provided by Richard Côté, Mary "Lynx" Schmidt and Marilyn Pearl. Don Gerson had his camera there to record it all. Overseen by Building Manager, Wyatt Rexach, clean up was accomplished on two fronts (meeting house and kitchen) by Nancy Boardman, Muriel Morisey, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Cathy Helmold, Tina Van Pelt, John Bartoli, Penny Murray, Don Munro, Ed Greville, Elaine Shell, Noel Monardes, Nancy Spande, Marilyn Pearl, Wendy Schlegel, Kathy Kearns and James Alexander. Margaret McLellan laundered all the tablecloths!

Merci also to all who attended this dinner and patronized the leftover sale the next day. A special salute to a higher than usual number of cooks who purchased tickets, donated time and energy to prepare the amazing food, and then waived reimbursement! The net proceeds for this dinner were \$1,195!

The next Ethnic Dinner will probably be our last. We are trying to decide on a date in either March or April, and are looking for a theme, maybe something special for that occasion. Any ideas?

When Ethnic Dinners ends, so will our need for the plastic containers which you've steadfastly donated for the last 20 + years! Having them has enabled the leftover sales to add about \$200 to each dinner's proceeds. Occasionally other food events at PBUUC have taken advantage of this collection to distribute their leftovers as well. So, there is still a need, although not as large a one, and now someone else needs to take over managing them. It's not a difficult job; even one your kids could help with. If interested, contact Marilyn Pearl, 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net for details. But, please no more containers until that new person asks you for them.

In and Around Paint Branch

HOLIDAY DEADLINES & OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be OPEN from 9-4 Monday, December 21. The church office will be OPEN limited hours Tuesday, December 29 through Thursday, December 31.

The church office will be CLOSED Friday, December 25; Monday, December 28; and Friday, January 1; in observance of the Christmas & New Year holidays & for staff vacations.

Note the following deadline changes for December:

- Branches articles should be submitted by December 15.
- Bulletin announcements for the December 27 Kwanzaa service are due Tuesday, December 22.

Poinsettias For Sale At PBUUC In December

You will be able to order poinsettias for your home, for friends and to decorate the Meeting House this season. Use the form on page 9 of this newsletter to pre-pay and place your order for four colors of poinsettias in three sizes. Members of the Multigenerational Religious Exploration Community and the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team will be on hand after service to accept your forms and answer any questions you might have. All orders must be placed by Sunday, December 13. Funds raised will be divided between the RE Community and DARTT.

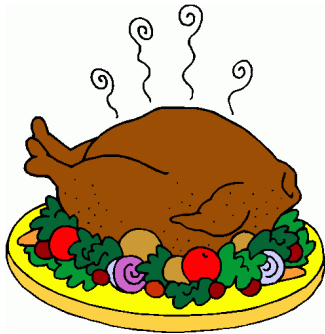
The plants will be available for pickup or to 'deck the halls' for the season on Sunday, December 20.



In and Around Paint Branch, cont.

Paint Branch Bookstore Open Sunday, December 6, Featuring PBUUC Authors

On Sunday, December 6, PBUUC's Bookstore will feature books by four of our own authors: Marj Donn, Lyn Johnson, Lynx, and Raman Pathik. Stop by, browse, and buy. We will also be selling books from our inventory for adults and children. Authors will be available for signing. These make great holiday gifts. Monies raised go to PBUUC's operating budget.



Our annual PBUUC Holiday Dinner is on Sunday, December 20, after the service.

The Holidays are almost here! One of the fun events in the planning is our Annual PBUUC Holiday Meal. This will be held on Sunday, December 20 after the service. We need your help

to make this dinner happen. We will be selling tickets and recruiting volunteers after service for the next two Sundays. If you can help, there are opportunities for everyone: setup, cleanup, cooking, coffee... We will have sign-up sheets in the Foyer, or contact Jan Montville Jan.Montville@verizon.net. Good food, good conversation, good time!

The Third Wednesday lunch group, TWedHUULK, will eat at Siri's Chef's Secret restaurant in Greenbelt at 1 pm on Wednesday, December 16. The Third Wednesday Handy Unitarian Universalist Lunch Klub will again celebrate the holiday season at the Thai/American place on Greenbelt Road just before Beltway Plaza Shopping Center next to a new Dunkin Donut shop. It's on the left as you drive east toward the plaza entrance. We will be in the semi-separate space so we will be able to have a good conversation.

There is plenty of parking. The menu is half American and half Thai and prices are reasonable. Everyone is invited. Please contact Elaine Shell at 301-776-4271 or 301-602-0590 or Elaine@Greville.net; or just surprise us and come if you can come at the last minute.



Buy something for the Mitten Tree

You will have an opportunity to buy something made by our own handcrafters on two Sundays, December 6 and 13, during the social hour after the morning service. You might also find a gift or something for yourself! Mittens, caps, and baby booties. Check us out.

Women's Group Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange

Join us Sunday, December 13 during Enrichment Hour for the Third Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange!

Bring three dozen of your favorite holiday cookies to share, plus an empty container to bring cookies home in. All are welcome

– join us for the festivities even if you don't bring cookies. Location: Kelley Room. For more information, contact Susannah Schiller at susannah@comcast.net or 443-956-7554.



Our current display of paintings

is by friends, Judy Brown and Barbara Sweeney. They met when they both were working to found the Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region, BASNCR.

Judy works mainly in watercolor.

Her work reflects her love of nature, as

well as her training as a scientist and teacher. She tells us, "I majored in Botany as an undergraduate and have a passion for botanical art." Consider asking her to do a special commission! Judy has executed several botanical commissions and pet portraits.

Barbara works in watercolor, oils, colored pencil, gouache and photography. She blames this peripatetic output on her insatiable delight in buying art supplies. Genres include botanical illustration, *plein air* landscape, still life subjects and most recently, recycled soda can collage.

Original paintings, prints and notecards by both artists are available for purchase at the gallery Barbara owns, Art Partners Inc. Framing and Art Gallery in Clarksville, Maryland. At the gallery Barbara focuses on archival and preservation framing. If you have questions or are interested in a purchase you may contact the gallery at 410-531-5366 or www.artpartnersgallery.com.



POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER



Come to the Poinsettia Sale

After worship service, in the lobby of the Meeting House, beginning **Sunday, November 29** and continuing through Sunday, **December 13**, you will have an opportunity to order and pay for poinsettias for you, for a gift and/or to decorate the Meeting House for the holidays.

Orders placed by December 13 will be tagged and **ready for pick up on Sunday, December 20**.

Funds will benefit the Diversity/ Anti-Racism Transformation and the Multigenerational Religious Exploration Teams.

CONTACT

Dayna Edwards at dre@pbuuc.org

Carol Carter-Walker at carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net

First Name		Last Name		Email Address		
Phone Number				Payment (cash/check) (checks: make payable to FBUUC put poinsettia sale in memo line)		
Size	Price	Quantity	Color	Take Home	Leave at church	Total
4.5"	\$ 7.00		Red			
			White			
			Variegated			
			Pink			
6"	\$12.00		Red			
			White			
			Variegated			
			Pink			
7"	\$20.00		Red			
			White			
			Variegated			
			Pink			
				Grand Total		

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, a pbuuc.org 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 **64th 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 included in the ContinUUm weekly email.
- **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. Up to one paragraph more may be added for use in the ContinUUm weekly email.

All deadlines are now on the web calendar. Go to www.pbuuc.org. Scroll down to “This Week” and click on

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