



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

April 2016

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

APRIL 3 FIND YOUR PURPOSE AT PBUUC

The PBUUC Worship Associates

Marge Owens won this service by the Worship Associates at the church auction and chose our topic. The WA's will reflect on how Paint Branch and a purposeful life intersect. We will learn about Marge's grounding in the UU movement and her long service to both PBUUC and the larger world of social justice. The congregation will also have an opportunity to reflect on the topic.

APRIL 10 FLOWER COMMUNION

*Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; with Noel Monardes, Worship Associate; and the Choir **

Our faith's tradition of a flower ceremony is a wonderful celebration of spring -- and of much more.

APRIL 17 TO LIVE AND DIE WITH HONOR

*The Rev. Evan Keely;
with Will Snyder, Worship Associate*

The ancient story that is commemorated at the Jewish festival of Passover is filled with universal themes of the human struggle for freedom.

APRIL 24 UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Paula Palmer, Director, Toward Right Relationship Project, Boulder Friends Meeting; Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate; and Dayna Edwards, Director, Multigenerational Religious Exploration. We will hear about how the United Nations provides avenues for Indigenous Peoples to seek justice, defend their rights, and pursue development goals in keeping with their values, beliefs, and traditions.

**All-Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to remain in the Meeting House for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest is provided in Room 5.*

Minister's Column

For any organization, community or even any individual person, when faced with change, certain questions cannot long be avoided: What must we change or do differently in order to adapt? What must we continue to do in order to maintain the integrity of who we are?

The Compelling Conversations that began in March have been a rich opportunity to address these kinds of questions. We know that no institution can thrive if it continues doggedly to do the exact same things year after year, changing nothing while the world around it evolves; we know that abandoning everything we have known and striking out on a new path is not often wise, especially when there might well be very good reasons to continue what we have been doing: when there are things we have learned, strengths we have developed, and blessings we have given and received, it is irresponsible and wasteful to abandon all that. The question, then, becomes one of balance. How much change is too much, and how much is too little? These are not easy questions. It is of the utmost importance that we explore them together and that we permit a multiplicity of voices to be heard as we find the way forward for Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. I am gratified by the enthusiastic participation in the four Compelling Conversations that took place in March, and I look forward to continuing them through April and beyond.

Rev. Keely will be on leave Friday, April 1 through Sunday, April 11 and can be reached at 703-864-5551 in the event of a pastoral emergency.

Evan —

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



Our Caring Community

April'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 appointments; visits; or cards. Contact her at MGandML@verizon.net or 301-379-3864.

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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
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
Electronic Communications	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Ethnic Dinners	Don Gerson
Finance	contact church office
Green Team	Marilyn Pearl
Leasing (contact)	Patty Daukantas
Legacy Fund	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Membership	Church Office
Ministry	Ken Montville
Nominating	Janet Overton
Personnel	[contact Transition Team]
Religious Exploration	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Site Improvement	Jim Flaherty
Social Action	Patricia Most
Stewardship	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Transition Team	Nancy Boardman
	Chris Evans
	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	Evangeline Wells & Tess Morrison
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](#)

[Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration](#)

Director, Chalice Dancers

[Church Administrator](#)

[Administrative Assistant](#)

[Bookkeeper](#)

Sunday Service/Building Managers:

Child Care Providers:

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

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

Board of Trustees Column

Fellow PBUUC'ers,

Thank you to everyone who attended the Town Hall the last week of February. If you were unable to attend, the minutes are on PBUUC's website. You can either type in the following URL www.pbuuc.org/news/article.php?id=280 or go to the Calendar listing (February 28) and click on the Town Hall.

On March 13, Rev. Bruce Marshall, our Ministerial Settlement Representative, presented to everyone in attendance an overview of the Search process. Bruce highlighted that the purpose of a search is to find the minister who will best serve our congregation as you move into the next decade. He then reviewed who all the players are in the process and gave us an overview of the timeline for finding a settled minister for August 2017. The process for empaneling a Ministerial Search Committee is determined by the Board of Trustees.

At our meeting on March 15, the Board appointed the DMRE Hiring Team and another member to the Nominating Committee. We received an update on Stewardship (if you haven't turned in your pledge cards, please do!) and reviewed the current projects in process at the Church. We then spent the second half of our meeting determining the process and timeline for empaneling a Ministerial Search Committee. That process is included in this month's Branches and will be emailed to all members, posted on our Facebook page, and included in the Bulletin.

During our April meeting, we plan to discuss what it would take for PBUUC to be ready for a Capital Campaign, hear about multi-site ministry options, receive an update on the outdoor classroom, and start setting the agenda for the Congregational Meeting.

Speaking of the Congregational Meeting, the Board decided to change the date for the Congregational Meeting to **June 5th**. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend, as on top of the usual business will be the vote to approve the slate for the Ministerial Search Committee.

I hope you're all enjoying Spring!

Theresa Myrdon, Board Chair

April Board Meetings:

Thursday, April 7, 8 pm

Executive Committee (via Conference Call)

Saturday, April 1, 11 pm

Read-Aheads due to Board

(email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Tuesday, April 19, 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

Process to empanel a Ministerial Search Committee

The Board of Trustees has decided to form a Ministerial Search Committee consisting of seven members. The Board will solicit and collect written applications. A slate of seven individuals will be selected from the pool of applicants by the Board. The slate will then be presented to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting.

Applications will be available as of **01 April 2016** on the church website. Completed applications are due by **24 April 2016**, preferably, to mscapplications@pbuuc.org or can be left in a brown envelope in Liz Citrin's mailbox in the Church office by noon. All members of PBUUC are welcome to apply. As we are selecting the slate, currently serving Trustees are excluded from applying for or serving on the Ministerial Search Committee. Otherwise, we encourage everyone able to meet the criteria below to apply.

The Board will use appropriate criteria for selection to the Search Committee as outlined below, which is taken from the most current Unitarian Universalist Association guidelines. Search Committee members will be:

- ✦ Known and respected by others in the congregation
- ✦ More strongly committed to the congregation as a whole than to any subgroup
- ✦ Well informed about the demands and time requirements of search committee membership and be prepared to give about 250-400 hours over the coming year
- ✦ Balanced by sex, age, interests, and tenure of membership to reflect the diversity of the congregation. Major areas of church life such as religious education, social action, property management, finance, and music should be represented by participants, not partisans
- ✦ Balanced by attributes: organizational ability, broad theological awareness, computer skills
- ✦ Pledged to conduct a search that is fair and nondiscriminatory with respect to race, color, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, and national origin
- ✦ Committed to maintain confidentiality and to seek consensus
- ✦ Capable of both self-assertion and compromise
- ✦ Not prone to extreme reactions to ministers. The previous ministers' strongest supporters or opponents are rarely the best choice
- ✦ Well suited to teamwork: a search committee is no place for Lone Rangers!

The Board of Trustees will send the slate out to the membership by **20 May 2016** so that everyone has time for discernment prior to the vote at our annual Congregational Meeting on **05 June 2016**.

Religious Exploration

Last year, at the RE service, I wondered out loud the following wondering question: "I wonder how our faith community might look different if we had five adults commit to creating relationships with each child or youth in the congregation." I am happy to say, we are well on our way to finding out what our community would look like with more adults committed to creating caring relationships with children and youth in the congregation.

The Mystery Buddies program is taking us closer to becoming an authentic multigenerational community. A diverse cross-section of PBUUC adults have agreed to pair up with a child/youth buddy, to whom they will write a brief message each week for a total of four weeks. Hopefully, the child/youth will also write back. They won't know who their buddy is, until the "reveal" at the Mystery Buddies Tea on Sunday, April 24.

Mystery Buddies is more than just a program, it is a ministry. Like the characters in the book *Zen Ties*, by John Muth, the generations have an opportunity to minister to each other as mystery buddies. This is a great volunteer opportunity to connect with others that you might not see in your regular church life.

For more information, contact Dayna at dre@pbuuc.org.

Yours in Faith,

Dayna.

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Announcements:

Outdoor Classroom Workday: Join us April 2 to help finish off the Outdoor Classroom at the front of the church. Many hands make light work. Bring gloves, shovels, sandpaper, wheel barrows, etc. Jobs for all-ages. Please RSVP to Jessica Sharp at spangledangel@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 3rd at 11:30 am join us in the Kelley Room for a celebration of Unitarian Universalist March birthdays. There will be refreshments, celebration, and learning.

The Mystery Buddies Program starts Sunday, April 3!! Bring your first note for your buddy on April 3 and put it in the "mailbox" envelope with your assigned number. Mailboxes are located in the RE building on the bulletin board near the Kelley Room. (Find out more about Mystery Buddies at <https://goo.gl/i5915e>)

T-shirt cutters needed. Ebeth Porter has agreed to make a beautiful rug for one of the RE classrooms out of old t-shirts. Many of you have donated t-shirts to the cause. Now it is time to cut them up and re-use them. **Can you take a few t-shirts home to cut into yarn?** Directions will be provided. Contact Dayna Edwards at dre@pbuuc.org.

The RE program is still accepting donations of clementine boxes, and clean glass jars with lids. Leave them in the DMRE's office in the RE building.

Stewardship

Bold Steps For Our Future:

There are just a few more weeks to go in our annual Stewardship Campaign for 2016-2017. Have you stepped up to do your part? If you have, we are very grateful for your generosity. If you haven't, it's not too late! Please agree to make your pledge when your Visiting Steward contacts you, or you can stop by the Stewardship Table in the lobby after Sunday services.

So far, the response from the congregation has been terrific. As I write this, we have received over \$240,000 in pledges, with many members increasing their commitment from last year. But we still have about 40 households to go and we will need everyone's commitment to meet our goal. Your pledge is especially important this year as we embark on a search for a new settled minister and move towards becoming a fair share congregation again.

To celebrate the official end of this year's campaign, the Stewardship Committee will provide additional food and drinks during coffee hour on Sunday, April 10th. We hope everyone can be there.

It's time to be Bold!

Women's Group

The Women's group activity for April is a walk on the Matthew Henson Trail. This is a newer trail in Montgomery county, and is named after the African-American explorer Matthew Henson. Matthew Henson went with Robert Peary on many expeditions, including to the Arctic; where Matthew Henson and Robert Peary and four Inuits (Ootah, Ooqueah, Seeglo and Egingwah) were allegedly the first people to reach the North Pole.

This is not an interpretive trail like the previous Women's group visit to the Underground Railway trail in Olney. This is a regular suburban trail, like the Sligo Creek trail (Montgomery county) or Greenbelt Lake trail (Prince Georges county). We are going in April because we are hoping for wildflower sightings, and walking weather that is neither too hot nor too cold.

We will explore the Matthew Henson Trail starting at 11:30 am on Saturday, April 23. The group will meet at the trail parking area at the intersection of Layhill Road and Middlevale Lane in Layhill, on the west side of Layhill Road. The path includes asphalt and boardwalk sections, and is stroller/wheelchair accessible. We expect to walk for about an hour or a bit more. After the walk, anyone who wishes to get lunch as a group is invited to do so. For questions please contact Anne Hoover at 240-381-8204 or ae Hoover@hotmail.com.



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship With America's Native Peoples

On Sunday, April 24, Paula Palmer, Director, Toward Right Relationship Project, Boulder Friends Meeting, will be the guest speaker at our Sunday Service. (See "Meet Our Guest Speaker" for a brief bio and picture; and page one for a description of her talk during the morning service.)

After the Service, the Social Action Committee and the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team will host an interactive workshop on the Doctrine of Discovery led by Paula. She created this Workshop in response to calls from Indigenous leaders at the United Nations and the World Council of Churches and with the guidance and encouragement of Native American educators. It traces the historic and ongoing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery on Native Americans. The goal of the Workshop is to raise our level of knowledge and concern about these impacts, recognize them in our institutions and ourselves, and explore how we can begin to take actions toward "right relationship" with Native Peoples.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 am. The Workshop will be from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Please check upcoming Bulletins/ContinUums and flyers in the Meeting House Lobby for more details and to sign up for the Workshop. Lunch will cost \$10. We are asking for free will donations to offset the cost of the Workshop. Child care will be provided.

Got questions? Contact Rene McDonald, Kay McGraw, or Carol Carter Walker, or e-mail TRRWorkshop@pbuuc.org.

Something ADOREable Is Happening at Paint Branch

From a series of gatherings that began last summer, the congregation has signaled that it is leaning in to move toward implementation of the resolution unanimously approved at the June 2011 Annual Meeting, but never fully implemented.

"To more fully realize our Unitarian Universalist Principles, we, the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church community, declare ourselves an Intentional Multicultural Congregation. Therefore, we commit ourselves, the Board of Trustees, staff, committees, affinity groups and lay leadership to inclusive actions to transform all aspects of congregational life in ways that affirm our multicultural identity as the foundation of the church's strength."

A significant number of members of the Paint Branch community have attended meetings at Paint Branch and gatherings of other Unitarian Universalists designed to help us reach Beloved Community. Out of these conversations has emerged an interest in improving communications across race and ethnicity within our own doors. Some PBUUCers and our Interim Minister have been meeting to plan sessions where a diverse group of Paint Branchers can learn to talk about race and ethnicity until it loses its power. These sessions will be modeled on ADORE, A Dialogue On Race And Ethnicity. This process of deep sharing was developed by Paula Cole Jones, Joseph Priestley District Social and Racial Justice Consultant, and is or has been established in several local congregations including All Souls, Annapolis, Arlington, First Church of Baltimore, Columbia, Davies, and Towson. We are now recruiting a diverse group of facilitators for this work. Please watch upcoming Bulletins/ContinUums for more information about ADORE.

Meet Our Guest Speaker

Paula Palmer April 24th



Paula Palmer is a sociologist, writer, and activist for human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. As director of Toward Right Relationship, a project of the Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee of the Boulder Friends Meeting (Quakers), she created and facilitates workshops titled, "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples" (for adults) and "Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization" (for middle schools and high schools). She is the 2016 Pendle Hill Cadbury Scholar, conducting research on the role Quakers played during the era of the Indian Boarding Schools. For more information, please see boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship.

For 17 years, as executive director of the non-profit organization, Global Response, Paula directed over 70 international campaigns to help Indigenous peoples and local communities defend their rights and prevent environmental destruction. In Costa Rica, where she lived for 20 years, she published five books of oral history in collaboration with Afro-Caribbean and Bribri Indigenous peoples, through a community empowerment process known as Participatory Action Research.

From 1995 to 2001, Paula served as editor for health and environment of Winds of Change magazine, a publication of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). She holds an M.A. degree in Sociology from Michigan State University and has taught courses in the Environmental Studies Department of Naropa University. She is profiled in American Environmental Leaders From Colonial Times to the Present (ABC-CLIO, 2000) and Biodiversity, A Reference Handbook (ABC-CLIO 1998).

Paula is a recipient of the Elise Boulding Peacemaker of the Year Award (given by the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center), the Jack Gore Memorial Peace Award (given by the American Friends Service Committee), the International Human Rights Award (given by the United Nations Association of Boulder County), and the Multicultural Award in the "Partners" category (given by Boulder County Community Action Programs).

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Social Action Committee (SAC) Activities: SAC's March meeting was a full and interesting one. It included important special collection news (see below). Also covered were updates about the new rainbow flag for Paint Branch and planning to move ahead with its placement here as a witness to our strong support & caring for the LGBT world. Also updates on the English classes held at our Community Learning Center were covered. As was its important expansion to the Broad Acres Elementary School! A Habitat for Humanity/Black Lives Matter rally is planned for Paint Branch on June 25 - with an important planning meeting being held here on Saturday afternoon, April 23 from 2 pm- 4 pm. We also discussed our current budget and plans for our budget request for the coming church year. Work is also continuing on updating the social justice brochure and reviewing a PBUUC social justice priorities survey done in 2013 and whether or not do now do another such survey in 2016 with the Green Team & DARTT. We also are considering having a speaker at PB on Income Inequality - with a suggested title being *Social Action as a Spiritual Practice*. With Warm Nights coming to Paint Branch from April 17 - April 24 SAC members agreed to sign up to help on Monday evening, April 18. SAC will also be helping DARTT to organize a light lunch and workshop for the April 24 Sunday Service on Native Americans. We've also been asked to co-host a film called *How to Die in Oregon* with the Goodloe UU Fellowship which SAC will follow up on. And a thank-you to Janet Overton as the new PB Beacon House representative - and for all else that she does for social justice work! With chair Nancy Boardman's upcoming retirement move to the New York City area - focus also will turn to new SAC leadership soon. And importantly - please join us at our next SAC meeting on Saturday morning, April 16 at 10 am in Room 4 as we focus on social action in our social justice work together! Nancy B.

Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting Schedule:

Here are the SAC monthly meeting dates through June 2016. They are held in Room 4 of the RE Building.

- ❖ Saturday Morning, April 16, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, May 21, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, June 18, 2015 (tentative)

Heads UP!! Warm Nights Week Sunday, April 17 – April 24 Paint Branch has been participating in the Prince George's County Hypothermia Program offering a "Warm Nights" Homeless Emergency Shelter week organized by Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI) since 1993. Sign-up sheets will be in the lobby beginning in March for all kinds of volunteer opportunities from cot set up and take down at the beginning and end of the week to cooking, serving, and spending a night in the kitchen. Do you have an old, large suitcase that you no longer need? Many of our guests could use a large suitcase for their clothes. More news to follow. Tess Morrison and Evangeline Wells are coordinating our efforts this year.

Special Collection News:

Announcing: Janet Overton is our new Special Collections Coordinator! Thanks, Janet. We welcome suggestions of recipients for our special collections. If you have suggestions, please contact Janet.

A new guideline (well, yes, it's a rule!): The Social Action Committee announces that we will no longer accept special collection donations after the Sunday of the collection. The process has become too cumbersome for the church treasurers. They are all volunteers, after all! If you cannot attend on the Sunday of the special collection and want to contribute, please get your check to the church office no later than that Sunday. If you miss that date, we will try to have the address of the recipient available, so that you can mail a check to them or you can donate online.

A special collection will be taken at the dance service May 1st. It will benefit a fragile cultural treasure in a totally black city suffering from despair and racial isolation. A celebrated African American dancer, choreographer, and anthropologist, **Katherine Dunham**, purchased a historic mansion in East St. Louis, Illinois, after she was honored by the Kennedy Center as a National Treasure. She saw this as a way to inspire young people who would come after her. The University of Southern Illinois, no longer supporting any presence in the town, initially helped with housing her memorabilia, costumes from her troupe's world tours, and a collection of hundreds of video tapes of her troupe. It is feared the tapes are deteriorating. Now we hope to help rescue this valuable, vulnerable resource. (East St. Louis completes the circle around St. Louis, composed of St. Louis County and containing Ferguson.)

Submit Your Ideas for Lay-Led Services Online

We've already received some wonderful ideas for lay-led services via e-mail and at our Enrichment Hour meeting on March 20. Thank you! Since we're moving toward a year-round church model with five lay services in July (when Evan is on vacation), and then more interspersed throughout the year, we're happy to have even more ideas in the pipeline. If you have one to share, please fill out the online form at the following address by **April 15** (for summer) or on an ongoing basis if you have availability for fall, winter, or spring 2016-17: <https://goo.gl/9Xgn9k> As always, you or the service leader you propose will have assistance from a worship associate in the crafting and delivery of a high-quality worship service. We're also in the early stages of planning a training session for prospective lay leaders.

Questions? Comments? Prefer a paper form or e-mail attachment? Please contact any of us on the Worship Associates Lay-Led Services Planning Team. Van Summers vsummers6@gmail.com, Beth Charbonneau bethcharbonneau@yahoo.com, and Carol Boston carolboston@verizon.net.

In and Around Paint Branch



LUAU ANYONE?



Yes, I've said *no more Ethnic Dinners*, but then you heard a rumor that I've suggested a Luau this summer. If it sounds as if I'm speaking out of both sides of my mouth, let me explain. Although there was always a lot of volunteer help for the dinners, micromanaging all the behind-the-scenes details had become quite overwhelming for me, and I felt the quality of the dinners was suffering as a result. No one else was interested in taking over, so with some reluctance, I've brought them to an end.

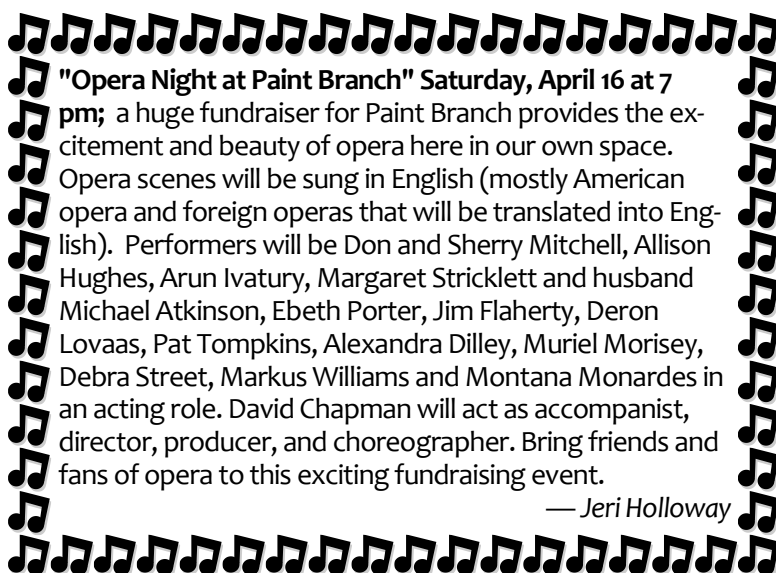
This past December I had the opportunity to visit Hawaii, a lifelong dream. It brought to mind the Hawaiian Luau we did in July 2005. That was not an ordinary Ethnic Dinner because others did not usually include decorations, special name tags, entertainment, dancing, food, activities for kids, and other extras, which, at that dinner required more work, but made it so special. It was very successful and so much fun. If we did it once, surely we can do it again, and maybe even better with the input of any of us who have been to Hawaii. Should we choose to do all of that again, each part would need its own subcommittee.

Paint Branch is moving toward year-round services and year-round RE; why not year-round social events/fund raisers? So, consider this only a suggestion. I am not in charge. I am not organizing it. I am not planning it. I am just suggesting it. But, if enough people want it, are enthusiastic about it, excited about it and willing to take on some responsibility for organizing, planning and overseeing those devilish details, here's what I can do. I'll offer some ideas, contribute what I've learned about event-planning, turn over the records and decorations from our previous Luau, relate details from the one I attended on Oahu, and provide a few items I brought home with me, with no pressure to accept or incorporate any of that. If we/you decide to do it, I'll also do some cooking.

But, time is of the essence. A Saturday in July or August would be the best time for this. There is a BOT meeting scheduled for the evening of Aug. 6, and July 2 is the Sat. closest to July 4. Other Saturdays are open for consideration. The Women's Group wants to hold a barbeque and is willing to schedule it in whichever month we don't pick, so their plans are hinging on what we decide. My first suggestion therefore, is we need to pick a month and a date and get it on the calendar now. Then we can set up a committee and meet to get things rolling.

If you are interested, enthusiastic, excited and/or willing, please email buffalo_gal@verizon.net by April 30 at indicating your choice of date and willingness to help. I'll pass that on to whatever committee seems to be forming and we'll take it from there.

Mahalo,
Marilyn Pearl



"Opera Night at Paint Branch" Saturday, April 16 at 7 pm; a huge fundraiser for Paint Branch provides the excitement and beauty of opera here in our own space. Opera scenes will be sung in English (mostly American opera and foreign operas that will be translated into English). Performers will be Don and Sherry Mitchell, Allison Hughes, Arun Ivatury, Margaret Stricklett and husband Michael Atkinson, Ebeth Porter, Jim Flaherty, Deron Lovaas, Pat Tompkins, Alexandra Dilley, Muriel Morisey, Debra Street, Markus Williams and Montana Monardes in an acting role. David Chapman will act as accompanist, director, producer, and choreographer. Bring friends and fans of opera to this exciting fundraising event.

— Jeri Holloway

The Artwork on our walls are Marj Donn's designs. The medium for almost all of these mandala-like designs is colored marker, though some also include watercolor. Many are for sale, all under \$100.

The monthly TWedHUULK (Third Wednesday lunch group) will be going to the Pasta Plus restaurant in Laurel at 1 pm on April 20. Pasta Plus has been in Laurel for many years. It is run by an Italian family and is well known for its original and wonderful Italian meals. Everyone is invited. Mark it on your calendar now. Contact Elaine Shell 301-776-4271, Elaine@greville.net for more information.

ETHNIC DINNER FINALE

Wrapping up our final Ethnic Dinner is proving to be as challenging as producing it was. No Saturday in March was conflict-free. We considered several other themes before finally picking Irish. Admittedly, it's not a wildly popular cuisine, but I think we may have changed some opinions on that.

Thanks to Kim Keyes for loaning us her "Irish Heritage" cookbook, the only exclusively Irish cookbook we had to work with and the source of many of our menu choices. Elizabeth Yanowitch and Andy Myrup offered us "a lot" of recorded Irish music and created 3 CDs of different genres. A week later, Allison Hughes offered us a live Irish band who would literally sing for their supper. Everyone absolutely loved the band, and we were able to supplement the live music with the recorded. Special thanks to the band for finding, learning and performing the song, "American Wake" an Irish-inspired ballad written by former Paint Branch member, Zoe Mulford.

Those who came early to set up the Meeting House for over 75 diners included Don & Beth Henderson, Keith Miller & Debra Street, Ethelyn Bishop, and 2 newcomers, Judy Morris & Opal Immerman. Mike Stark & Sonja Meredith did their usual excellent job setting-up, stocking and running our own Irish pub.

When ready to leave for the dinner, I found my garage door

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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 **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 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

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

In and Around Paint Branch, cont.

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would not open. In a panic I called Ken & Jan Montville. They drove me, the food and “the book” to church, then, took me home again where the 3 of us managed to get the door open so I could pull my car out. Repairs have now been completed.

Cooks, some attending and cooking for their first Ethnic Dinner included Rene McDonald, Chris Evans, Cathy Helmold, Ethelyn Bishop, Pat Behenna, Margaret McLellan, Marilyn Pearl, Ebeth Porter, Liz Citrin, Kathy Bartolomeo, Tina Van Pelt, Jeri Holloway, Kathy Kearns, and Tess Morrison. Everything was very well prepared, but one is worth noting. At the menu meeting, we knew roasted root vegetables would be perfect, but we had no recipe. Using only our ingredient suggestions, Tina produced a winning dish!

Just days before the dinner, we learned Sunday’s service would be followed by a congregational meeting. The youth wanted to prepare a pancake brunch to serve in between, and needed the kitchen for that. So, we knew that following the dinner, we had to have the Meeting House ready for the service and the kitchen completely cleaned for the pancake crew. Chuck Bury, building manager for

the evening, called Romeo Ndonfak to help. Others cleaning up were Cathy Helmold, Pat Tompkins, Nancy Boardman, Jan & Ken Montville, Marilyn Pearl, Kathy Kearns, James Alexander, Don Munro, Patty Daukantas, John Bartoli, Penny Murray, Ebeth Porter, Allison Hughes, Mike Stark, Sonja Meredith, and even those new ladies, Judy Morris & Opal Immerman who pitched in like they’d been doing it forever! The next day, despite our apprehensions, both the brunch and the leftover sale went smoothly.

The net proceeds from this dinner were \$1022.50! Thanks to all helped and participated in the dinner and the leftover sale.

Yes, Ethnic Dinners are over. What’s next is up to you. Check elsewhere in this issue of BRANCHES

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