



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

**May 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

### **MAY 1 DANCING THE ELEMENTS**

*The PBUUC Chalice Dancers, Sharon Werth, Director;  
with The Erika Thimey Dance & Theater Co., and  
Carol Boston, Worship Associate*

Join us for a celebration of the divine that dances and sings through all of creation – the earth, the air, the fire, and the water in us all. A Multigenerational Service that will culminate in a Maypole Dance in the glen.

### **MAY 8 AMERICAN PATRIOTISM, EXCEPTIONALISM AND THE UU FIRST PRINCIPLE**

*The Rev. Evan Keely; with Van Summers,  
Worship Associate; and the Choir*

If we as UUs believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, how can we hold out the notion that we as Americans are better than others, no, the best? How can we be UU 'patriots' and 'exceptionalists' and act out of our first principle? Can these ideas be reconciled?

### **MAY 15 YOUTH SUNDAY**

*The PBUUC Youth Group; with Sophie Bernheisel,  
Worship Associate; and Dayna Edwards, Director of  
Multigenerational Religious Exploration*

The PBUUC Youth reflect on the topic of Change.

### **MAY 22 OUR LIVES MADE WHOLE**

*The Rev. Evan Keely; with Beth Charbonneau,  
Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of  
Multigenerational Religious Exploration*

A great contribution of religious liberalism has been our insistence on teaching that human sexuality is a gift to be embraced with responsibility, justice and compassion.

### **MAY 29 IT IS NOT DONE**

*The Rev. Evan Keely;  
with Carol Boston, Worship Associate*

As another year elapses in the longest war in U.S. history, we pause to reflect on the many meanings of Memorial Day.

### **Minister's Column**



I've had occasion in my life to be present at gatherings that featured a live discourse from two Nobel Laureates for Peace: the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. They both had profound wisdom to share, but what really struck me about being in the presence of these men was their happiness and their humor. Both of them have not only experienced profound personal suffering and loss, but have had to bear the responsibilities of leadership in places where terrible injustice has been present. Yet both the 14th Dalai Lama and the Archbishop of Cape Town smiled, laughed, even cracked jokes in their discourses. Any sane person could easily wonder: how could anyone who has personally experienced such suffering, and been the steadfast companion and champion of peoples who have suffered so much, ever feel happiness again? And yet we know that part of what makes both of them great spiritual leaders is their refusal to succumb to despair. They have had so much taken from themselves personally, and seen so much taken from people they love — freedom, justice, even life itself — yet they do not allow the oppressor to also take from them the humanness of a smile and a laugh. This must come from amazing spiritual and personal strength, but it is genuine, and it is not unattainable by the rest of us.

One of the great challenges of life is to acknowledge and honor the pain of our own lives and that of others while also allowing ourselves to continue to dwell in the fullness of our own humanity: we mourn, we feel angry and afraid, but we also are still beings that need humor and delight and joy. What spiritual practices are we engaged in at PBUUC that contribute to both a deepening awareness of pain's reality — our own, and the world's — as well as to a sense of jubilant thanksgiving and courage and hope?

*Evan*

— The Rev. Evan Keely,  
Interim Minister

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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	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 🌀

Melody Lawrence  
vacant

### 🌀 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	<a href="#">contact church office</a>
Finance	Patty Daukantas
Green Team	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Leasing (contact)	<a href="#">Church Office</a>
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Membership	Janet Overton
Ministry	[contact Transition Team]
Nominating	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration	Patricia Most
Site Improvement	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Social Action	Nancy Boardman
Stewardship	Chris Evans
Transition Team	<a href="mailto:Transition@pbuuc.org">Transition@pbuuc.org</a>

### 🌀 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	Anita Williams
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 🌀

The Rev. Evan Keely

### 🌀 Staff 🌀

Please contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for staff listed	
<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>	Aisha White
<a href="#">Bookkeeper</a>	Roy Friday, CPA
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Romeo Ndonfak
	Wyatt Rexach
Child Care Providers:	Jazmin Balbuena
	Beth Judy

### 🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

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

## Board of Trustees Column

This is the last Branches Article I will be writing as Board Chair. Next month, Branches will be due the week we are expecting Movers to be at our house packing everything up. Come June, our family will be in Australia. No worries - Liz Citrin and Tess Morrison, as Co-Vice Chairs, will be writing those articles, so you'll still hear from the Board!

At our meeting on April 16, the Board received an update on ongoing repair projects at the Church as well as updates from the Stewardship Committee, Budget Leadership Team, and Denominational Affairs. We approved and signed the final contract with Rev. Keely to continue as Interim Minister through July 31, 2017. The Board then set the Agenda for our Congregational Meeting in June and held two extensive discussions. The first was about adding another goal to our Congregational Interim Ministry. We discussed how to set higher expectations of ourselves as a congregation and engage in hard discussions among ourselves. This will likely end up as an ongoing conversation and a goal for next year's Board. The second discussion was what it would take for PBUUC to be ready for a Capital Campaign.

During our May meeting, we plan to continue discussing our congregational goals, hear about multi-site ministry options, hear a pre-liminary report on the Budget, and vote on any Legacy Fund Grants.

There are a few items for you to remember as our 2015-2016 Church Year draws to a close. Annual Reports will be due shortly. If you've not started thinking about yours, please do so soon. Also, please mark June 5th on your calendars as that is the date for the Congregational Meeting. The Agenda includes the Interim Minister's Report, elections for Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee, the vote on the slate for Ministerial Search Committee, a vote on a Black Lives Matter banner, and the presentation of the 2016-2017 Budget.

As you all know, Paint Branch is in the middle of impaneling a Ministerial Search Committee and at the same time seeking Volunteers for the Board, the Nominating Committee, for RE Teachers, and many other jobs. I hear a lot of things as Board Chair and decided this past Sunday that I'd share this with you. Three years ago, I was less than pleased with Paint Branch. I was teaching Our Whole Lives jointly with Silver Spring bouncing back and forth between the two Churches. OWL was Sunday mornings, so I was only in Sunday services about once a month and I didn't feel they were speaking to me. I no longer felt connected to Paint Branch as my spiritual community and my family was discussing moving Churches. Then, Carol

Carter-Walker caught me one Sunday and asked me to consider serving a year on the Board. Over the course of a few weeks, my husband and I had many discussions that boiled down to one thing - I could walk away and start over or I could take my angst in hand and work toward building a better community. I did the latter and I'm still here. I don't know if Paint Branch is a better community or if in serving, I've re-discovered my spiritual home. I do know that I have enjoyed (most of) my three years on the Board and do not regret for a moment answering Carol's call.

Respectfully,

*Theresa Myrdon*, Board Chair

### May Board Meetings:

**Thursday, May 5, 8 pm**

Executive Committee (via Conference Call)

**Saturday, May 14, 11 pm**

Read-Aheads due to Board

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

**Tuesday, May 17, 7 pm**

Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

## Stewardship

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign successfully concluded on April 10th. Our theme this year was "Bold Steps For Our Future" and we are grateful to everyone who stepped up to make this year's campaign a success. At the end of the campaign we had received 108 pledges totaling nearly \$276,000 and with just a few more anticipated pledges to go we expect that our pledge total will reach \$290,000 for the coming church year.

What is most remarkable this year is that 63 PBUUC households increased their commitment over last year. For those interested in the numbers, the average pledge per household increased by 6% to \$2,555. Even more impressively, the average pledge per person increased by 8% to \$1,890.

We want to thank everyone who has made this possible, from our committee volunteers, to those who helped with our Stewardship breakfast and Commitment Sunday service, and to our many Visiting Stewards. Thank you all for your generosity! Thank you for being Bold!



## Religious Exploration

Recently, I have been thinking a lot about the difference between the prefixes “inter-” and “multi-.” Paint Branch strives to be multi-cultural and multi-generational, which is an admirable goal. I wonder, what would happen if we changed the prefix to “inter-.” Let’s take a closer look.

According to dictionary.com the prefix “multi-” means, “more than one; many, especially variegated.” Using the dictionary.com definition, I would say Paint Branch has achieved the goal of being both multi-cultural and multi-generational. We have many cultures and generations at each Sunday service. Before we start patting ourselves on the back, realize that any gathering of 100 Americans is, in most cases, going to be both multi-cultural and multi-generational – that is, it will have more than one generation and/or culture represented. The prefix “multi-” doesn’t imply any type of exchange of cultures or address the power dynamics of the cultures in the room.

The pre-fix “inter-,” according to dictionary.com is “a prefix occurring in loanwords from Latin, where it meant ‘between,’ ‘among,’ ‘in the midst of,’ ‘mutually,’ ‘reciprocally,’ ‘together.’” When I think of the prefix “inter-,” I think of the word “interaction.” You can see from the definition, that there is an implication that words with “inter-” at the beginning of them have something to do with relationship, togetherness, and mutuality. If we were to change multi-generational and multi-generational to intergenerational and intercultural, I think, we would change the way we interact, and that change could be revolutionary.

A perfect example of intergenerational exchange happened last Sunday during the Mystery Buddies Tea. It was deeper than different generations sitting together in the seats of the church listening to the same story (which is also wonderful, by the way). The Mystery Buddies Tea brought different generations together to talk, share, and laugh – and yes there was a lot of laughter. My five year old found out that her mystery buddy and she had the same favorite game: tic-tac-toe! I saw a shy girl who rarely smiles, sitting on the floor with her mystery buddy playing jacks and laughing! I saw a young girl who loves science fiction bond with her mystery buddy who she found out had the same favorite author! These precious moments are what help people of all generations feel like they belong and want to come to church. These are the moments when we live into our principles most earnestly. These moments don’t happen just because we are all in the same room together as a multigenerational group; they happen when there is mutuality, togetherness, and intentionality and we become an intergenerational community.

My heart is so full of gratitude for the PBUUC faith community for trying the Mystery Buddies program and committing so fully to healthy intergenerational relationships. I wonder what would happen if we carried the momentum intergenerational community found in the Mystery Buddies program into other programs of the church.

Yours in Faith,

*Dayna,*

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration



Join us in the Kelley Room after the service on Sunday, May 1st to celebrate the May Birthdays. Cupcakes and activities will top off the festivities.



## Women's Group

The Women's Group May meeting will be a trip to Brookside Gardens on Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm. We will meet inside the Visitors Center at 1800 Glenallan Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902 at 2 for a walk along one of the stroller and wheelchair friendly routes through the gardens. Come join us for a walk in these beautiful gardens. Contact Renee Katz at [raynie5@hotmail.com](mailto:raynie5@hotmail.com) or 301-928-3200 with any questions. — Renée

## Our Caring Community

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

Please contact her if you, or a PBUUCer you know, is in need of meals; rides to church or appointments; visits; or cards. Contact her at [MGandML@verizon.net](mailto:MGandML@verizon.net) or 301-379-3864.

**A message from Fran Caughey:** My news is mostly happy: I am going now to live in Massachusetts, near my son and daughter. But I bid a regretful farewell to dear friends here. I will miss you all, and the church.



## Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

By Carol Boston (Excerpted from her *Chalice Reflection* during the April 3 Service on Purpose commissioned by 2015 Auction Winner Marge Owens.)

Years ago, when our interim ministers gave a sermon about the rights of gays and lesbians to marry, I nodded sympathetically from my seat: of course they should be allowed to marry. More marriage, more children in loving homes, the end of state-sanctioned discrimination—I was on board. But then the minister complicated my morning reverie by adding, “You there in the seats, with a mom on one end and a dad on the other and two kids in the middle (exactly my family’s configuration)... you need to bring every bit of your social capital to Annapolis because you look like people in traditional families and you ARE people of faith. This is your fight too.”

Her words slowly sunk in. Oh... you mean I have to do something beyond signing a petition or writing a check? I have to show up somehow with my body? I decided to join the Paint Branchers who were phone banking in support of marriage equality. I felt extremely awkward ringing up strangers to discuss a contentious issue. It’s not who I thought I was—but it was who I became, once I got clear that this was my fight too.

More recently, I sat near Marge Owens and commented that she was wearing a Black Lives Matter button. She took it off and handed it to me. I put it on for the service and wondered what I would do with it next. I was in utter sympathy with the statement, but I’m really not somebody who wears buttons or displays bumper stickers. I even worried that there might be something subtly condescending about a white person wearing it, as if once again we’re deciding from our position of privilege who else matters. I finally decided I was overthinking this. I would just put it on my coat for the rest of the day and see what happened. That afternoon, at Kinko’s, the young Caribbean man behind the desk said, “I like your button.” Then we smiled and looked each other in the eye. Then I walked over to the Rite-Aid to see if there was any half-price chocolate left from Valentine’s Day, and when the African-American woman digging in the bin on the same mission saw me, she did a double-take and laughed, and then we had a conversation about how buying discount chocolate is a powerful act of self-love in any race.

Warmed by these contacts, I wore my button to work at the University of Maryland the next week, and it seemed to me that I started being included in the nods that I’d noticed African-American students and faculty give each other when they walk across campus. I liked feeling connected like that—embraced by a kind of club. When the weather turned colder and I forgot to switch the button to my heavier coat one day, it seemed like that connection vanished. It was then that I had a light-bulb moment. The thing I thought was self-evident... that of course I believe black lives matter... was not automatically

apparent in the way I behaved. It took the button to affirmatively telegraph that value.

When I wore the button to Montgomery Mall, the young woman who hung up my clothes in the dressing room told me she liked it, and then came back again to ask me if I wore it every day. She came a third time to ask me why I wore it. I surprised myself by saying it was a witness that I was doing with my church community. And while that’s not exactly true—we’ve not taken an organized stance—it’s true enough.

Because coming here week after week gives me my purposes. Being part of this community enlarges me and tells me increasingly often that something I wasn’t paying much attention to really is my fight too. Finally, at age 54, I am discovering that it isn’t necessary or even particularly important for me to be comfortable all the time, or to confine myself to those things I think I do best, especially when matters of wisdom, justice, and courage are at stake. Purpose develops whenever we show up for the people and tasks directly at hand.

### RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT V:

#### Black Lives Matter, Communities Matter

Sponsor: Central East Region of the UUA  
JPD Racial Justice Summit

Saturday, May 7, 2016 - 9:30 am to 4 pm

All Souls Church, Unitarian,  
1500 Harvard Street NW, Washington, DC

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch).

You can go to <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/5th-jpd-racial-justice-summit/> to register.

#### During our time together . . .

- ✦ we will start with a brief check-in within racial identity caucuses (one for those who identify as people of color and one for those who identify as white.
- ✦ panelists will share presentations in the morning and respond to questions.
  - ◇ - “Black Communities since the 1960s: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back” – Alonzo Smith, ret. Historian and Member, UU Church of Rockville.
  - ◇ - Omolara Williams and Arron Goggans, lead organizers of DMV chapter of Black Lives Matter movement.
- ✦ after lunch, we will be able to watch the full performance of “Last House Standing: A Play About the Highway to Nowhere” by Sheila Gaskins.
- ✦ we will break into groups to discuss the play and reflect on our place in this work.

### Black Lives Matter Buttons & Signs Available After Service Beginning May 1

The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) has laid in a supply of buttons and yard signs. They’ll be available for each Sunday beginning May 1. Small buttons are \$.50, large buttons are \$1.00. Yard signs are \$6.50 and metal stanchions are \$1.60. Any monies raised above our costs will be used for Beloved Community programming.



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

### Jubilee II, UU-Focused Anti-Racism Training

Date: Friday, May 20, 2016 - 6 pm to Sunday, May 22, 2016 - 5 pm

This 2 ½ day workshop is open to members of any congregation in the Joseph Priestley District. Church leaders are especially encouraged to attend. The goals of the training are to develop a shared analysis of racism and its individual, institutional, and cultural manifestations begin to apply this common understanding to the history, culture, and institutional structure of our congregation, and to envision next steps.

The training includes presentations, discussions, videos, exercises, small group work, worship services, and shared meals.

#### Agenda Topics Include:

- The history of racism & resistance to racism in the Americas
- Defining racism
- The effects of racism on people of color and on white people
- Dismantling racism
- Claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity
- Racism in the UUA

#### The Schedule is:

- Friday, May 20, 2016 from 6 pm to 10 pm at River Road UU Church, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD
- Saturday, May 21, 8:30 am to 9 pm at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St NW, Washington DC,
- Sunday, May 22, 8:30 am to 5 pm at the Washington Ethical Society.

Registration fee is \$150. (includes meals) DARTT is offering up to \$50 for three scholarships to facilitate attendance. Registration deadline is May 18th. Contact [cer@uua.org](mailto:cer@uua.org) or [DARTT@PBUUC.org](mailto:DARTT@PBUUC.org)

### Black Lives Matter Banner At PBUUC Or: You're Harassing Me—Keep Up The Pestering

I have heard from several Paint Branchers who have harangued me about why we haven't hung a BLM banner. When I was working on the Workshop on Native American Peoples, I was chided for not keeping my focus on Black Lives Matters initiatives at Paint Branch.

Well... this is good! You'll be happy to know that Paint Branchers have been meeting regularly and plan to present a resolution to the Board of Trustees for placement on the Annual Meeting Agenda to hang a Black Lives Matter banner on Church property.

Continue to lean in!

Carol Carter Walker

Co-Chair, Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

## HABITAT Volunteer Day June 25

**Come Join the Social Action Committee/Membership Committee/DARTT Collaboration and Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity-Metro Maryland (HfH) on June 25.**

Rev. Todd Gray, Faith Relations Manager for Habitat for Humanity, developed the idea for a volunteer build and service day and community bar-b-que in support of Black Lives Matter here at PBUUC on June 25, 2016.

Here's how you can participate in this three-part event:

- ≈ from 9 am to 1 pm, volunteer at the HFH build site in Riverdale, MD (2-6 people)
- ≈ from 9 am to 1 pm, volunteer in the Silver Spring or Rockville ReStore (5-8 people)
- ≈ from 1 pm until 4 pm, enjoy a community bar-b-que/rally at PBUUC with speakers

Working at the HfH home build site at 6014 67th Place, Riverdale, MD: The home is nearly completed, so working there will likely involve painting and minor completion work. A construction manager and crew leader will be on site. The crew leader makes the work assignments and provides any needed instruction. You can put the address in Google Maps to see what the block looks like.

Working in a HfH ReStore: ReStore volunteer tasks include taking in new merchandise and cleaning it in preparation for sale, testing merchandise for functionality, organizing merchandise on floor, moving merchandise and setting up displays, maintaining general orderliness and cleanliness of store and welcoming and assisting customers. Volunteers should expect hands-on work. The store manager is on site and will provide any needed instruction and answer any questions. The Silver Spring ReStore is located at 12006 B Plum Orchard Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904, just off Cherry Hill Road, across from Riderwood. Volunteers are also needed at the Rockville Restore, located at 1029 East Gude Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

Community Bar-b-Que and Black Lives Matter Rally: Rev. Gray and Habitat staff will reach out to local area businesses to sponsor the event, solicit food donations from local vendors (e.g., Costco, Harris Teeter, Safeway, etc.), and arrange for speakers at the rally.

We hope you will set aside Saturday, June 25, for a day of fun and helping the less fortunate in our community. Being a ReStore or build site volunteer allows you to help families fulfill needs to improve functionality, quality, and comfort in their homes. Attending the bar-b-que allows you and your family to help yourselves to delicious food and information vital to making our communities stronger and more vibrant.

Look for more information in next month's Branches. For more information in the meantime, contact Janet Overton at [janmo12@verizon.net](mailto:janmo12@verizon.net)



## UU & You

### Denominational Connections

Paint Branch UU Church fits into the larger world of the Unitarian Universalist denomination like this:

PBUUC  
Primary Contact  
Capital Cluster  
Central East Region  
Unitarian Universalist Association

Did you notice something missing from that list? You're right - the Joseph Priestley District (JPD), which has been for many years our closest contact with the denomination, wasn't in there. That's because at the recent Annual Meeting of the JPD on April 9, 2016, a motion was approved to empower the JPD Board to dissolve the District when they have determined that the new Central East Regional structures can fulfill the responsibilities and mission of the JPD.

Why? Because the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is transitioning from an organizational structure of many smaller Districts to a structure of fewer larger Regions. This process is called Regionalization. The staff of the JPD has already transitioned to becoming employees of the UUA. Primary Contacts and Clusters have been established. We are now included in the Central East Region which consists of 210 congregations formerly included in the *Joseph Priestley, Metro New York, Ohio-Meadville, and St. Lawrence Districts*.

Another difference in the above list is the addition of a Primary Contact who is our first "go to" person for all things related to the Region and the UUA. Our Primary Contact is Megan Foley, an ordained UU minister now serving on the staff of the UUA. The Primary Contact links us to news, information and resources at both the Regional and the UUA levels. Megan also coordinates several Clusters in this area. We at PBUUC are members of the Capital Cluster, which includes 13 UU churches in Washington DC, around the Maryland side of the Beltway, and on the Eastern Shore. There are many exciting kinds of cooperation between congregations being discussed at the Cluster level. Bettie Young is currently the PBUUC representative to the Capital Cluster.

Information is available about the reasons and benefits for this change on the UUA website at [www.uua.org/central-east/regionalization](http://www.uua.org/central-east/regionalization). You can also talk to PBUUC's delegates who attended the JPD Annual Meeting: Don Gerson, Tricia Most, Carol Carter Walker or Bettie Young.

## Roots and Branches of UU Class May 14

Are you new to UU? Would you like to know more about Unitarian Universalism Paint Branch, UU history or explore the meaning of the UU Principles? Join Sarah Firestone, Harry Schomberg, Rev. Evan Keely and other PBUUC members as we explore the roots of Unitarian Universalism. Our class will meet Saturday May 14 from 9:30 to 12:30. Light refreshments will be provided. Please contact Sarah or Harry at [rootsclass@pbuuc.org](mailto:rootsclass@pbuuc.org) for more info or to sign up. Day care can be provided if you let us know ahead of time. Come join us for a lively morning discussion.



## UUMAC 2016



Are you looking for a summer vacation option that will be fun, rejuvenating, multi-generational, and affordable? Come join us this summer at UUMAC-- The Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community -- which will be held July 10-16 at DeSalles University near Allentown, PA.

UUMAC is an intentionally multi-generational community, and programming is a balance of activity according to age grouping and across age barriers. Children, teens and adults each have programming geared to their interests. As well, ages mingle for off-campus trips, and evening activities.

This year's UUMAC will focus on Radical Hospitality and Radical Justice, A Journey In UU Identity in Stories and Song. Rev. Libby Smith, an adjunct staffer at the Joseph Priestly District, will be our Minister of the Week and Rev. Dr. Tracy Sprowls of the Plainfield UU church will be the Theme Speaker.

For more information, please check out our website: [www.uumac.org](http://www.uumac.org) or email our director, Ashley Egan at [ash-tree97@gmail.com](mailto:ash-tree97@gmail.com)

## The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville

(UUCR) is looking for a new half-time Director of Music to be responsible for the overall planning, management, and implementation of all aspects of UUCR's music programming. As the head professional musician on staff, the Director provides hands-on musical leadership as well as supervision for other professional staff and volunteer musicians. The Director also coordinates and works with congregational volunteers as appropriate to successfully meet and expand music and music-related programming at UUCR. Salary is competitive; no benefits. A detailed position description may be found on our website at <http://uucr.org/employment-opportunities>.

To apply, send a resume, cover letter, and references to [apply4DOM@uucr.org](mailto:apply4DOM@uucr.org).

## Social Action Committee (SAC) News

**Social Action Committee (SAC) Activities:** The Saturday morning April 16th meeting was a full and interesting one - as the church fiscal year wound down. SAC will meet again on Saturday May 21st and on June 18th before taking SAC's usual summer break. The meetings will be at 10 am in Room 4 of the RE Building.

Importantly three budget requests levels were agreed on for the 2016-2017 church budget which were then forwarded to the Budget Leadership Team by Chair Nancy Boardman the next day. This included continued support for Habitat for Humanity and the annual Capital Pride Festival UU booth in Washington DC in June. Also approved was a speaker on income inequality, affordable housing activities, and depending on the funding level - support for such UU organizations as the Legislative Ministry of Maryland, the UU Service Committee, and UU's for Social Justice in the National Capital Region. SAC agreed on expenditures for this fiscal year which included updating the PBUUC Social Justice brochure and support this year for Habitat for Humanity and the UU booth at the Capital Pride Festival in Washington DC.

Other activities include a revisit to the SAC Charter for possible revisions, updating guidelines for special collection procedures, rainbow flag installation plans, news from the UU-UNO Seminar in New York City which Marge and Lowell Owens had just attended, and support for the Right Relations with Native Americans luncheon and workshop on April 24th at Paint Branch. The UU General Assembly will be in Columbus, Ohio this year in June. SAC was glad to learn Emma Sue and Don Gerson will be attending and hope that others will too from Paint Branch. With Warm Nights starting the next day (Sunday, April 17) at Paint Branch and lasting a week SAC members were encouraged to sign up to help if they had not done so yet. Also in leadership transition for SAC, as chair Nancy Boardman plans to move to the NYC area in late June, SAC members were so pleased to learn that Janet Overton may become the new chair! What good news! Let's hope that can work out both for SAC and for Paint Branch's social action work!

Please join us at our next SAC meeting on Saturday morning, May 21st at 10 am in Room 4 of the RE Building 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, May 21, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, June 18, 2016

## Special Collection News:

**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.)

## WARM NIGHTS

A Hearty and Heartfelt Thank You to all who volunteered time, energy and food to Warm Nights for the 23rd Year!! Paint Branchers pitched in to help set up the meeting house to welcome in our guests, bring food for dinner, serve dinners, spend the night in the kitchen to serve breakfast, do shower duty, and help set up the meeting house for service at the end of the week. A Thank you also to those who donated suitcases and sample bathroom products. We began Sunday, April 17 with 23 guests, 4 mothers with 4 children (3 teen boys and one year old baby), 2 fathers with 5 children between them (ages 5-10/12), 4 single men and 4 single women. We added 2 people on Monday and held at 25 through Tuesday, then went down to 17 for Thursday and Friday and back up to 23 for Saturday. The children were well behaved and all were grateful for the shelter, our lovely location and the excellent food all the way around. This time of year is excellent for our church - with our large windows, the dead of winter was not easy! The budding spring beauty surrounding our location offers peace to those in turmoil. None were repeat guests and housing was found for at least one family (pregnant mother with a year old baby boy.) We Thank you for your generosity of spirit, time and food.

*Tess and Evangeline*



## In and Around Paint Branch



### Be sure to mark Saturday, May 21st on your calendar and "Swing Into Spring"

at a fundraising multigenerational dance. Our own Sonny Katz will be the DJ as we learn line dances and swing to music from across the decades. Tickets go on sale April 24th: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children or \$20 per family. Time is 6-9 and light snacks and beverages will be available for donation. Child care will be available for younger family members. Come on out and support the church in a very fun way and don't hesitate to bring family and friends.



### Thanks to all who attended the first "Opera Night at Paint Branch"!

We had a full house and raised \$1,097 for the church. Many hours went into its production that included three on the lighting crew, four prop people, one greeter, an Emcee, fourteen performers and (oh, yeah!) a piano player.

Many thanks to Richard Côté for set construction and his helpers, Romeo Ndonfak and Wyatt Rexach (our good-hearted building managers).

*David Chapman, Director of Music and pianist*



The monthly TWedHUUIK (Third Wednesday lunch group) will meet at Cuba de Ayer in Burtonsville at 1 pm on May 18. Come enjoy the tropical tastes of Cuba! Cuba de Ayer serves authentic home style Cuban cuisine. The address is 15446 Old Columbia Pike. Everyone is invited. Mark it on your calendar now. Contact Anita Williams 813-817-2701 or alw9999@yahoo.com for more information.



### Beautification Day, Saturday, May 7

This is our annual spring clean-up/fix-up day. Tasks for everyone to make our PBUUC buildings and grounds more inviting to everyone. Come anytime between 9 am and 2 pm. Pizza at noon. Lowell Owens, Buildings and Grounds committee chair. [lowellandmarge@verizon.net](mailto:lowellandmarge@verizon.net)

## GREEN TEAM

### Building Hope Workshop

Have you ever felt discouraged about the state of the world and the state of the Earth? Our Green Team is hosting a workshop on the process in the book *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy* on Sunday afternoon, June 12. The workshop will be led by Kolya Braun-Greiner, who was trained by the book's author, Joanna Macy. There's no cost to participants. Even if you've read or discussed this book before, this workshop can re-energize you.



**PBUUC using solar power?** It's not as far-fetched as it seems. The Green Team is currently exploring the possibility of switching over to solar power (we are currently 100% wind power), which might even result in an overall reduction in our electric bills! All solar panels would be located offsite on land in Prince George's County. To save even more energy (and reduce our electric bill even more), we are also exploring the possibility of retrofitting the lighting in the church to be more energy-efficient.

## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe



The NOVA Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, EPIX & UUCF present

An Advance Screening of

## UNDER THE GUN

Directed by Stephanie Soechtig

**Saturday, May 7, 7 p.m.**

**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Fairfax Sanctuary**

**2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124**

Followed by a discussion  
on gun violence hosted by:  
Northern Virginia Chapter  
**Brady Campaign**



To Prevent Gun Violence

RSVP @ <http://bit.ly/underthegunnova>

UUCF is a No Guns Allowed Zone

### 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, 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](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. 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](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.**

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
3215 POWDER MILL ROAD  
ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030  
(301) 937-3666  
WEBSITE: [WWW.PBUUC.ORG](http://WWW.PBUUC.ORG)  
EMAIL: [CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG](mailto:CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG)