



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

September 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

SEPTEMBER 4

BREAD AND ROSES

*The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister;
with Will Snyder, Worship Associate*

One of the great advances of modern civilization is a shift in attitudes toward labor, seeing it more and more as imbued with dignity. But there is still more work to be done to give labor its due.

SEPTEMBER 11

A FERVENT LOVE OF TRUTH

*The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister;
with Carol Boston, Worship Associate; and the Choir*

What's religious about religious education?

SEPTEMBER 18

THERE CAME OUT THIS CALF

*The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister;
with Van Summers, Worship Associate.*

We all have things that we turn to that may soothe us in the moment, but which point us away from our true selves and our core values. Being honest with ourselves is the key to liberation.

SEPTEMBER 25

TILLING OUR COMMON GROUND

*Guest Worship Leader, UU singer-songwriter Andrew McKnight
with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate.*

Andrew McKnight, former environmental engineer turned award-winning singer/songwriter and guitarist from the foot of northern Virginia's Blue Ridge. His music and messages are infused with great reverence and warmth for the human journey and our place on this magnificent blue ball. In addition to his performing and recording career, our fellow UU has devoted much of his energy and passion to causes and issues dear to our faith.



Minister's Column

As election day nears, we might find ourselves hearing utterances along the lines of, "This is the most consequential election in a generation." I certainly think that any election is likely to be important in its way. On the other hand, I've never heard anyone say of any election, "This one's not so important, folks. Feel free to sit this one out." It's a sad statement that nearly half of the electorate in this country does sit out in every election, and those of us that do vote don't always like the choices we have to make, nor do we always have a great deal of faith in the messy processes of democracy, "the worst form of government except for all the others," as Winston Churchill memorably intoned.

All that being said, it seems fair to say that the 2015-16 church year at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist will be of great consequence. Last spring we said goodbye to a very gifted, much-appreciated staff leader, but now we have a superbly capable, dynamic new Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration in Carla Miller, and we should feel excited about the possibilities of the partnership she is forming with the congregation. The congregation voted last spring to align the church with the Black Lives Matter movement, and we're still at the beginning of discovering what that will mean for us. The Ministerial Search Committee is hard at work, planning to present a candidate this spring to be the next settled minister of the church. All these changes and new beginnings are bound to be fraught with some anxiety at times, but of course they are also full of amazing possibilities. As with civil elections, these processes call upon us to participate, to be involved, to care — to bring our ideas, our concerns, our hopes and our willingness to work together to build the future.

Evan

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister



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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 **Officers and Board of Trustees 2016-2017** 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Co-Chair	John Barr
Co-Chair	Liz Citrin
Vice Chair	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Trustee	Sonny Katz
Trustee	Mike McMenamin
Trustee	Muriel Morisey
Trustee	Tess Morrison
Trustee	Ken Redd
Trustee	Elaine Shell
Secretary	Erin Gebhart
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Waugh

🌀 **Worship Associates** 🌀

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

🌀 **Pastoral Care Associates** 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

🌀 **We Care Coordinators** 🌀

vacant

🌀 **Chartered Committees & Task Forces** 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
	Jane Trout (Visual Arts)
Auction	Marguerite & Van Summers
Budget Leadership Team	Kathi Yu
Buildings & Grounds	Lowell Owens
Capital Campaign	Peter Wathen-Dunn
DARTT (co-chairs)	Carol Carter Walker
	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson, Chair
	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
Electronic Communications	contact church office
Finance	Patty Daukantas
Green Team	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Leasing (contact)	Church Office
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Membership	Anita Williams
Ministry	[contact Ministerial Search Cmte]
Nominating	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Personnel	VACANT
Religious Exploration	Patricia Most
Site Improvement	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Social Action	Nancy Boardman
Stewardship	Chris Evans
Transition Team	Transition@pbuuc.org

🌀 **Ministerial Search Committee** - Search@pbuuc.org 🌀

Jan Montville, Chair	Janet Overton
James Alexander	Elizabeth Porter
Jeanne Judd	Kathi Yu
Eric Most	

🌀 **Groups and Activities** 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
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
Meditation Group	Cory Carter
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Community Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Elaine Shell
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	Louise Waugh

🌀 **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	Carla Miller
Church Administrator	Sharon Werth
Administrative Assistant	Charles Bury
Bookkeeper	Aisha White
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Roy Friday, CPA
	Wyatt Rexach
	Quentin West
Child Care Providers:	Jazmin Balbuena
	Beth Judy
	Joy Washington

🌀 **Office Volunteers** 🌀

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

Ministerial Search Committee

Greetings, from the Ministerial Search Committee!

The flurry of behind the scenes activity is coming to the forefront and the information gathering phase of our search is here! This phase includes a survey, individual interviews, and cottage meetings. As I'm sure you've heard by now, the survey is live! It will remain open until September 15. You should have already received an email from our survey coordinator, James Alexander, with a link to the online survey, hosted by Survey Monkey. This survey is a vital part of the search process and we encourage everyone to participate. It will take 20-30 minutes to complete, but the good news is, you don't have to do it all at once. You can leave the survey, go do something else, and come back to the same spot without losing any of the answers you already entered. So, if you haven't done so already, now is the time to get started! If you didn't receive your emailed link, check your spam or secondary inbox folders (that's where I found mine). If you'd prefer to use pen and paper, we will have hard copies of the survey available for you in Foyer. Just find a search committee member, with the bright yellow name tag, to point you in the right direction. We will begin hosting cottage meetings in mid September. These cottage meetings are an equally important part of the process. While the survey captures the way you think when you are solitary (which is great!), the cottage meetings provide an opportunity for members and friends to talk with people they might not normally talk with about their vision and dreams for the future of our congregation. We estimate each meeting will take approximately an hour and 15 minutes. The times and dates of the cottage meetings will be available in the meeting house foyer. Please sign up for the ONE date that best fits your schedule. We'd like to have as much participation as possible in both the survey AND cottage meetings, the results of which, will be made available when we release the web page for the ministerial search packet.

We will also begin pulling some of you aside to conduct individual interviews very soon. In fact, you may have already been a part of, or seen these conversations happening around the church. So, if an MSC member sidles up to you after service and asks to talk, don't be nervous - we only want a few minutes of your time for a one on one conversation about who you see as our next minister. If you want to be interviewed, just ask one of the team with the bright yellow name tags, or email search@pbuuc.org, and we'd be happy to include your opinion.

I have loved seeing all the hard work we're doing to make our meeting house a warm and welcoming place... but our web page could use some attention as well. Our website is

a testament to the vitality of this church. Each page offers insights into who we are and what we do. Some of that vitality is lost when information on the page is out of date. If you are a committee chair, small group or activity leader, and there is a PBUUC web page that describes your group's work or events, or if you are the person responsible for content on pages not related to a group or activity, please review your web content and decide if changes are needed.

If you decide no changes are needed:

Send to: search@pbuuc.com (which goes to all seven members of the Search Committee)

Subject: Website OK – (name the specific group or activity)

For example, *Subject: Website OK – Pastoral Care*

If you want changes made:

Send to: search@pbuuc.com

Subject: Website changes – (name the specific group or activity)

For example, *Subject: Website changes – RE / Youth group* and send the changes either as Word or PDF documents or within the body of the email.

Please send changes or a no-changes as noted by Monday, September 19. Remember that our website is often our best chance to make a first impression on a potential visitor—or minister. You can help PBUUC make a good first impression by updating the information on your page.

Ebeth Porter

On Behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee



Wheel of Life

A memorial service for James Dietz will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 2 pm in the Kelley Room. A reception with light refreshments will follow the service.

Tina Van Pelt informed us that her mother, PBUUC member Gloria Van Pelt, passed away at home on Thursday, August 25th.

Barbara Likowski, one of PBUUC's earliest members, passed away September 1st. A celebration of her life will be held in the Meeting House at noon on Saturday, September 17th from noon to 2 pm.

Board of Trustees

September Board Meetings:

Saturday, September 17, 11 pm

Read-Aheads due to Board
(email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Tuesday, September 20, 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

Religious Exploration

Out of the Box

A few years ago, a U.U. youth, sharing his Coming of Age credo in service, used a metaphor to convey his youth group experience which has stayed with me. As he said, we live our lives in boxes. We have the “employee” box, the “student” box, the “son” or “daughter” or “spouse” box... the many roles we play in which we have shaped ourselves to fit, and been packed in by others as well. Sundays, as he said, are different. There is no package delivery on Sunday.

In our faith community, we strive to create that safe and sacred space. We all hope to find what we yearn for here, a place in which to simply Be, and to connect with all Be-ing. We work to build a trusting community where we can step out of our too-confining everyday boxes and become more fully present to the Spirit of Life.

Of course, to step out of our boxes amongst others, is to make ourselves vulnerable. In order to relax into that vulnerability, we need to make our trust explicit. We create covenants between us and safety policies to guide us. Our safety policy for our children, for example, is very important.

Here are some important points from that policy. There will always be two adults in each room. We will practice our fire drills in fall, winter, and spring. We check references for each of our teachers. All RE leaders sign a Code of Ethics. If that code should be breached, we may ask an adult to step down from their position of leadership. Our classes each form a covenant which includes acceptance of all, and respect for one another's differences. Our teachers will address challenging behaviors respectfully and clearly, in ways that promote the health of the entire group. If a child needs some particular accommodations, we will strive to provide these to the best of our abilities. In my professional role, I am here to minister to the health and well-being of each child, every family, and to all who participate in our multigenerational community of learners.

Our safety policies are an expression of who we strive to be as a faith community. They are designed to create safe space; physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually. It is a central paradox of living, this need for boundaries so that may feel free to Be. In a place worthy of our trust, our children, and all of us, can relax enough to share openly; to laugh, to cry, to create, and to be our vulnerable, and powerful, authentic selves.

One thing I love about PBUUC is its roundness—the round

sanctuary; the curves of the RE building. This is a physical space without boxes. It inspires us to us to create that circle of wholeness within ourselves. May we be ever attentive to creating a safe and respectful space for one another. May there be no boxes to deliver to PBUUC on Sunday.

Carla Miller

dmre@pbuuc.org

Speaking of boxes, we have a tradition here of opening a Wonder Box in worship. On my first Sunday with you I put items in the Wonder Box that represent aspects of who I am which I wanted to share with you. I invited the children and youth to create their own wonder boxes and to share them with me. I would love to know more about each of the children of PBUUC.

With personal wonder boxes or not, my highest priority as I come in the door is to establish a relationship with all of you as a congregation, with each of you as individuals in some way, and especially with our teachers, our classes, and the wonderful children and youth in this community. This is an exciting time of forming (and reforming) relationship at Paint Branch as your Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration.

Upcoming in RE - So much GOOD News!

September 4th All Ages Summer Birthdays Celebration!

Last Spring's Mystery Buddies program provided an opportunity for Paint Branchers of different ages to get to know each other. Another opportunity to bring the generations together will occur Next Sunday, September 4, after the worship service. We will celebrate Paint Branchers whose birthdays are in June, July, August, and September, and some famous UUs in history. Everyone is welcome, no matter when your birthday is! Please plan to come sing and celebrate your fellow congregants.

September 11th—First Day of RE Classes for 2016-2017

We have all the wonderful volunteers we need, though we always love to include more if you'd like to join in!

Registration for Children and Youth

A flow of registrations have been coming in for Children's RE. Thank you! If you have not not already done so, please do register, ages nursery through HS. Registration is Online at goo.gl/NvkNhJ Most parents have received this link in an email from Carla Miller, DMRE@pbuuc.org. Contact Carla with any questions.

September 18th- A Brief (15 minute) Parent Meeting

Parents, please gather immediately after classes in the Kelley Room on the 18th. This is a time to meet our new DMRE, Carla Miller, and to learn about all the great plans for this year!



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Report on 2016 General Assembly

General Assembly (also known as “GA”) is the annual convention of the entire Unitarian Universalist world. This year’s GA was held in Columbus, Ohio, from June 22-26, 2016. Nine members attended from PBUUC: Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Don Gerson, Emma Due Gaines-Gerson, Eric Most, Tricia Most, Lowell Owens, Marge Owens, Carol Carter Walker, and Bettie Young. In preparation, at the PBUUC June Annual Meeting, the congregation approved four voting delegates: Carmelita, Don, Lowell and Bettie. The others were designated alternates (Lowell had to leave on Saturday, so Tricia replaced him as a voting delegate at that time.)

The five days of GA included many powerfully inspiring speakers, including Rev. Dr. Bill Sinkford (former President of the UUA), Rev. Dr. William J. Barber (leader of Moral Mondays) and Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd (from River Road).

There was much great music, hundreds of workshops, worship opportunities, exhibits to browse, and the excitement of sharing the experience with thousands of UUs. We heard from the candidates for UUA President, which will be elected at next year’s GA. We heard about the changes due to Regionalization, including possible new changes to the “Fair Share” dues structure. We heard about new inter-faith and multi-faith collaborations.

One of the primary responsibilities at GA is to set priorities for the denomination’s focus in the near future. There were four issues (called Congregational Study Action Items, or CSAIs) nominated for consideration: (1) Climate Change and Environmental Justice; (2) A National Conversation on Race; (3) Ending Gun Violence in America; and (4) The Corruption of Our Democracy. Working sessions, debates and rallying continued throughout the 5 days of the convention. On the final day, when the vote was taken, The Corruption of Our Democracy was selected. This issue includes overturning Citizens United, campaign finance reform, gerrymandering, and other related subjects. The UUA staff will prepare study guides and action plans to lead us in four years of work on this topic. Feel free to ask any of us from PBUUC who attended how we voted on this (and other) issue(s), and why. Also passed were three Actions of Immediate Witness: (1) Build Solidarity with our Muslim Neighbors; (2) Legislating Appropriate Restrictions on Guns; and (3) Protect and Support our Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Family. In addition, two other issues were approved: a Responsive Resolution: Reaffirmation of the Commitment to Racial Justice; and a resolution called Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered which urged more awareness of Native Americans’ role. For more information about each of these issues, go to www.UUA.org/GA.

One contentious issue of interest to many, which had received a lot of attention before and during GA, was a vote

to divest from the UUA financial portfolio any investments in companies “complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights”. Due to routine investment screens by the UUA’s financial advisors which flag human rights violations around the world, these investments had been removed from the UUA portfolio prior to GA in the normal course of business; however such strong feeling remained attached to the issue that debate was still conducted and a vote was taken. The measure was defeated. But feelings still ran high.

It was a tremendously busy, exciting and moving five days. Next year’s GA will be in New Orleans, and will be very different – a “Justice GA” with the emphasis on direct on-the-spot social action/social justice engagement, as opposed to talking. Why don’t you start to think about attending next year!

Forrest Church Award Ceremony, September 15

This year’s Forrest Church Award for Humanitarian Service – honoring individual/s demonstrating courage, influence and selflessness in the betterment of our world (see previous recipients) will honor the co-founders of #BlackLivesMatter: Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi. We recognize #BLM’s great influence in raising public consciousness of injustices facing People of Color domestically and internationally, and its role in activating support for racial justice. UUA President Peter Morales will bestow the award, and event speakers include leaders of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism as well as Rev. Jacqui Lewis of Middle Collegiate Church.

The award ceremony is free and open to the public, and a catered reception will follow. It will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, September 15 in the All Souls sanctuary at 1157 Lexington Avenue in Manhattan. Seating is limited, and doors open at 5:45 pm – we encourage attendees to arrive early.

This event is co-sponsored by All Souls Unitarian Church and the Heart and Soul Charitable Fund. UU partners include the UUA and UU-United Nations Office; other partners include Middle Collegiate Church, NY Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, and Auburn Seminary.

You are warmly invited to attend, and can learn more from the [Forrest Church Award Facebook event page](#).

“RALPH NADER: A More Just Country For You”

Ralph Nader will give a free inspirational talk on his profound beliefs that “A More Just Country Can Be Yours ... It’s Easier Than You Think!” On this, the 50th anniversary of his landmark book *Unsafe at Any Speed*. Ralph believes it is up to all of us to develop alliances with the left and right for social justice, healthy children, affordable education, safe food and environments, reliable pensions, and waging peace as a foreign policy.

The event is Sunday, September 11 at 7 pm, Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814. Questions? Contact Dick Kauffunger at forum@cedarlane.org or 301-871-1369.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

SAC reconvened after a month-long break with a full agenda covering a wide range of issues. First was the need for a emergency Special Collection to help the survivors of the August 10 explosion and fire in Silver Spring. Helping those in need closest to home highlights the need for help in our wider communities.

With regard to PBUUC issues, we addressed the “Rainbow Flag Situation”—its disappearance and reinstatement and the fact that DARTT has been working with BAG to place a Black Lives Matter banner. We also discussed the Community Learning Center. Carmelita Carter-Sykes will be resuming her award-winning ESL program in September and will be asking all of us to help in a variety of ways. Please look for her announcements. Another topic was our participation in Warm Nights and supporting what the new Day Center CCSI’s Warm Nights manager is planning (see *Tricia Most’s article below*).

We also discussed scheduling Enrichment Hour activities such as speakers, movies, and discussion groups. Topics suggested include what happened in Annapolis with regard to LGBTQ, Death with Dignity, Fair Wage, and other legislation, what’s likely to get introduced next year and by whom. Discussions would address issues such as income inequality, housing in Prince George’s County, gun control, and police accountability. We also talked about a book discussion event to discuss, for example, Billionaire’s Ball, which many of us have already read.

With regard to our wider UU community, we talked about developing working relationships with UU community programs and supporting its endeavors. For example, each year one of our Special Collections goes toward our Fair Share payment to UUSJ (Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice). That money is, in turn, used to support programs that enhance the impact of social justice efforts among congregations. We also talked about UUJEC (UUs for a Just Economic Community) and the conference they plan to hold in DC in spring 2017 to start a conversation with and build on the work of area UU churches concerning the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) of economic inequality.

Beyond UU, we are redeveloping our relationship with Beacon House. On August 14, the Beacon House UU Liaison Team met at PBUUC to discuss plans for going forward. Five UU congregations were represented: Arlington, Fairfax, Silver Spring, Cedar Lane, and PBUUC. UU Rev. Donald Robinson, founder and president of Beacon House, also attended. The meeting was chaired by Lisa Taber, Beacon House’s Director of Development and Engagement. Now in its 26th year, Beacon House provides tutoring, mentoring, athletics, recreation, and nutrition programs to at-risk, low-income children ages 5-18 who reside in and around the Edgewood community in Washington, DC. Later this year, Beacon House alumni, many of

whom have gone on to establish professional careers, will hold a 25th Reunion to celebrate the program. A more formal celebration is planned for early next year. Look to hear more about this. In the meantime, Beacon House is holding a Backpack Drive to provide needed school supplies to as many kids as possible. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

Finally, back here at PBUUC, SAC is sponsoring a Transgender Support Group. Shantida Joseph will be our SAC representative. And Megan Foley, our Regional Lead from CER, asked that all area UU churches provide space for Black Lives Matter organizers. PBUUC has been added to that very long list.

“With humility and courage born of our history, we are called as Unitarian Universalists to build the Beloved Community where all souls are welcome as blessings, and the human family lives whole and reconciled.”

— UUA Leadership Council, October 2008



www.beaconhouseDC.org/give

Homelessness doesn't stop when the Paint Branch Warm Nights Week Ends *By Tricia Most*

Over the years, the Warm Nights Program, currently operated by Community Crisis Services Inc. (CCSI) has expanded services because homelessness is a year round problem in Prince George's County. Thus, there are now two Warm Nights locations each week when there used to be only one, and the program begins earlier in the Fall and ends later in the Spring than previously.

At the Warm Nights wrap up meeting on June 7, Donny Phillips, the Warm Nights Shelter Manager for CCSI, talked about needing air-conditioned housing for people during heat waves. In addition, he introduced the idea of providing laundry and shower facilities for homeless people at the University Christian Church (UCC) in Hyattsville - near the Prince George's Metro Station.

On July 26, Donny dropped into Community Café. Donny told me that Congregations United for Compassionate Empowerment (CUCE) would be holding a meeting to discuss plans for what he is now calling a 'Day Center.' I contacted Janet Overton, our Social Action Chair, and this year's Warm Nights coordinators, Tess Morrison and Rene McDonald, to let them know. Janet and I both attended and learned that there are many needed donations and ways for folks to get involved in supporting this Day Center, which will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 pm to 6 pm beginning October 4. Initially, the

SAC News continued

Day Center intends to provide laundry facilities, showers, ready-to-eat foods that may be micro-waved but don't require refrigeration, clothing, access to computers, powerstrips for charging cell phones, and personal interaction that meets their human and spiritual needs (without proselytizing). The Day Center will welcome donations such as food pantry items, towels, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, toiletries, disposable (preferably biodegradable) utensils, plates, cups, napkins, paper towels, and hand sanitizer. Eventually, it is hoped that the program can expand, and if enough donations are made, there will be a salaried staff. There was discussion about having a simple meal available such as soup and fresh fruit, as people drop in. For more information about one time or repeated donation opportunities, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNHV7GR>

On UCC's wall where the Day Center will be located, there is a statement prominently painted that says: "We believe that God is calling us to be: Christ-centered and Spirit led, Multiracial and Ecumenical, Prayerful and Compassionate." This bold statement is immediately visible to all who enter. In addition, there was a bulletin board that said: "Living a Giving Life" and in smaller lettering: "Growing as Faithful Stewards." This was surrounded by hearts on which people had hand-written their own messages.

At this year's General Assembly, the UUA strongly encouraged us to work with each other and congregations of other faiths. Our participation in the Warm Nights program is a good example of one way that congregations in Prince George's County cooperate to aid residents who need emergency housing. I recommend supporting the CUCE Day Center either as a congregation or as individuals, perhaps working side by side with volunteers from CUCE member congregations.

OTHER SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

We welcomed Janet Overton as our new SAC Chair at our August 20 meeting.

Want to become more involved in addressing income inequality?

The Social Action Committee has heard from UUs for a Just Economic Community, a group that is planning a conference in DC for the spring of 2017. Their focus is the current UUA Study Action Issue of Economic Inequality. Are there any PBUUCers who would like to help plan that conference and/or plan activities within PBUUC on the widening wealth divide? If so, please contact Janet Overton at 301-725-9286.

Disarm Hate. A member of SAC attended a recent rally in DC on gun control, held near the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Organized in response to the mass shooting at the PULSE nightclub in Orlando, a great many LGBT people attended - from as far away as Rhode Island, Louisiana and Canada! A large number of national groups sponsored the rally, not just LGBT ones. For a very, very hot Saturday, the group was huge!

Join us: Everyone is welcome to participate in SAC. Our membership consists of those who attend our meetings. Our next gathering will be on September 17, as usual on the 3rd Saturday, from 10-12 AM.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS:

Our Special Collection for September is for Nick's Place, a one of a kind affordable recovery house for young men 20—26 years of age. They are located close to PBUUC in Beltsville, MD and are the only place of its kind in the area. Nick's Place focuses on relapse prevention through mental, physical and spiritual education and participation in 12-step and Nick's Place in-house programs. They recognize that positive peer support is a key in helping young residents commit to a life of recovery. Their success rate is above the national average for 12-month continued recovery, because of their ability to focus on their unique needs. Nick's Place program models the healthy family unit. Residents are encouraged to make Nick's Place their home away from home for the duration of their 6–12 month stay. They are assisted in all aspects of healthy living skills by the Nick's Place staff in all areas of life — from personal health care, cooking and cleaning skills, budgeting and spending practices — to workplace ethics and community involvement.

Nick's Place was founded in 1999 by his mother, Rhea McVicker, in memory of her son Nicholas Cristarella (1974-1997). Nick was a smart, handsome young man with his whole life ahead of him. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a strong love for his family. Nick's life ended as a result of the disease of addiction and alcoholism. He struggled with his addiction from his early teen years, until his death at age 22. Nick's Place is in his honor... to help other young men in their journey through recovery from this disease.

Many Nick's Place alumni still live in the area and avail themselves to the residents and each other for network, support, transportation, and mentorship. Once a Nick's Place resident... Always a Nick's Place family member. As a result, 100+ young men who have gone through the Nick's Place program are now the backbone of a young adult sobriety community in Prince George's County. When my own son got out of rehab at an early age 12 years ago, there was no such community to welcome him and show him that there was a way to live a great sober life.

As you know we are going through an epidemic of young men and women dying from overdose and complications of addiction. Last year alone, Ed and I attended three funerals of young men in their 20s. We held a fundraiser for Nick's Place on our 25th wedding anniversary and are monthly contributors ourselves. Please check out the web site www.nicksplace.org for additional information and testimonials. Nick's Place is a 501c3 non profit organization and all donations are fully tax deductible.



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

ADORE (A Dialogue On Race & Ethnicity) IV: Witness & Advocacy At River Road Black Lives Matter Vigil



PBUUC's Bettie Young stands with River Road UU at their Black Lives Matter vigil, Friday, August 19.

On Friday, August 19, seven Paint Branchers travelled to River Road UU Congregation to participate in their Black Lives Matter roadside vigil. Between 6:30 and 7:30 pm, we joined a dozen River Roaders on both sides of the busy thoroughfare, held large signs and banners including Black Lives Matter, of course, but also signs for Sandra Bland and Tamir Rice, martyrs of racial injustice, to witness our commitment to this cause. Some of us "pumped" our arms and hands – at truckers especially – in encouragement of a horn response. The great number of waves, horns blown, and passersby smiles was gratifying. A most memorable one



Shantida and Sabrina Jones stand on River Road during River Road UU's Black Lives Matter vigil, August 19.

was the County Ride-On bus driver who stopped and gave us a special salute coming and going on his route. In fact, in the hour of the vigil, there were only two negative responses. Afterward, a few of us caucused over our experience and wondered what it would be like to do this at Paint Branch?

Watch this space for our September ADORE Event.

Submitted by Shantida and Carol Carter Walker

Save The Date: A Year of UU Black Lives Matter Summits in the District, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV). Where Are We Now? Where Is the Movement?

Sunday, September 25, 2016 from 2 pm - 6:30 pm

UU Congregation of Columbia, MD

Owen Brown Interfaith Center

7246 Cradlerock Way - Columbia, MD 21045.

Kerridwen (Kay) Henry & Paula Cole Jones, organizers.

Look for registration information in upcoming Bulletins/ContinUUs.

Jubilee II, UU-Focused Anti-Racism Training

All Souls, Unitarian, Washington, DC,

Friday, September 16, 2016 - 6 pm to

Sunday, September 18, 2016 - 5 pm

This 2½ day workshop is open to members of any congregation in the Joseph Priestley District. Church leaders are especially encouraged to attend. Agenda Topics Include:

- ❖ The history of racism and 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

Many UUs who have attended this Workshop have endorsed it as the most powerful source of their awakening. Registration fee is \$160 (Includes meals, materials and costs of national trainers.) Paint Branch's Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) is offering \$60 each for three scholarships to facilitate attendance. To obtain a scholarship, write to DARTT@pbuuc.org. For more information or to register, go to <http://bit.ly/Jubilee16Reg>.

Meet PBUUC's New Member!



Sarah Shannon-Firestone joined PBUUC on March 10, 2015, after attending for about a year and a half. She moved to Maryland in 2013 and previously attended the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana. A practicing Pagan, Sarah and her husband Jeff Firestone, who identifies as a humanist Jew, are both scientists who have taught at the college level. Jeff specializes in biology and Sarah received a bachelor's degree from UC Davis in plant biology, followed by a PhD in ecology from Indiana University. She grew up in San Jose and is the eldest of four children.

Sarah is interested in increasing the representation of women and minorities in STEM, and is working on the development of a summer camp to encourage high schoolers to go to college for science. She also researches teaching methods aimed at narrowing the college achievement gap. Sarah enjoys Irish dancing, which she has participated in competitively and as an instructor, and also enjoys teaching children how to knit and sew. She is a member of the Handcraft Circle at Paint Branch. Welcome, Sarah!

Women's Group

Join us for a guided tour of the Permanent Exhibition at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

On October 1, 2016, the Women's Group is sponsoring a guided tour of the Permanent Exhibition at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. We will meet at 9:30 am on the 15th street side of the Museum on the plaza with the sculpture. The Holocaust Museum is accessible by metro – use the Smithsonian stop (Independence Street exit, not the National Mall). Anne Merrill, Associate Creative Director in Marketing at the Museum will lead us on a guided tour. Please sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/Oct1MuseumTour>

We can only take 15 people on this tour, and it is recommended for age 14 and up. Please sign up each person individually. After 15 people, I will start a wait list. Contact Christine Sonnabend for more information by emailing cls.sonnabend@gmail.com or texting 240-535-5066. (Please no phone calls until September 12, 2016, as I will be out of the country.)

Christine Sonnabend

In and Around Paint Branch



TWedHUUIk

The Third Wednesday lunch group (TWedHUUIk) will meet September 21 at 1 pm at the Mandalay Restaurant in downtown Silver Spring. The Mandalay is a Burmese restaurant with a wide variety of dishes. Several of us consider it one of the best places around.

Everyone is welcome. The address is 930 Bonifant St. in Silver Spring; several blocks east of Colesville Rd. and just north of Georgia. Contact Elaine Shell for more info: elaine@greville.net or 301 776-4271.

– Elaine



Save the Date! PBUUC Auction: Saturday November 5th

The annual PBUUC Auction is Saturday, November 5th, just before the election. Please mark your calendars.

There will be an Auction Team Meeting on Sunday, September 25th in the Kelly Room at 11:45. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. All are welcome. Auction@pbuuc.org

Music at Paint Branch Fall - 2016

The "Music at Paint Branch" series returns in October with the first recital on Sunday October 9, 2016 at 4 pm. "Music Gets Us Through Turbulent Political Times" brings Deni Foster and Friends presenting a delightful program of music from Bach to Bernstein. Paint Branch musicians Deni Foster and Allison Hughes will perform along with guest musicians Dick Berg, Julie Ponting and the Sailing Madrigal Group. There is no charge for this program but donations are happily accepted. There will be a reception after to meet the performers.

Two young pianists will give separate recitals in October and November. Allison Yu, age 11 will perform on Sunday, October 23 at 4 pm and Steven Cui, age 10 will perform on Sunday, November 13 at 4 pm. Both of these young prodigies are students of San Qing Lu-Bennaman who has appeared at Paint Branch in the past. Her students are amazingly talented and exciting to hear.

We hope you plan to hear all of this wonderful music in our very special recital space.

- Jeri Holloway



Exhibition in the Meeting House Features Paintings by Michael R. Thompson

Our guest artist, Michael R. Thompson, is a recent graduate from the Department of Art at the UMD in College Park. Michael is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at Towson University. Michael's paintings relate strongly to modernist traditions of abstract form and field-like patterns. The works on display reflect his interest in painting, however he is experienced at a variety of other media. A reception is planned for early September. His work will be on display through the middle of October. If you wish to purchase Michael's artwork, please contact him at MThompson_516@hotmail.com or 301-793-0542. Twenty percent of all sale proceeds go to PBUUC.



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.

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