



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

**March 2017**

### 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

### MARCH 5

### KINDNESS

Guest speaker Rev. Pratima Dharm; with Will Snyder, Worship Associate; and Carla Miller, DMRE  
Christian Nestell Bovee wrote, "Kindness is a language which even the deaf can hear and the blind can see." Rev. Pratima Dharm will speak on the topic of 'kindness' to remind us of how we need to be more kind in order to live with hope instead of hate especially to fight the wrongs present in our society today. Kindness when applied on self and others, is a strategy that helps us not only to adhere to the principles of our faith better but also helps us hear our own inner voices of truth and justice in order to create our Beloved Community.  
\*\*\* TO BE FOLLOWED BY CONGREGATIONAL TOWN HALL MEETING \*\*\*

### MARCH 12

### THE LONG ROAD TO NINEVEH

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; Beth Charboneau, Worship Associate; the Children's Choir; and the Choir  
The Book of Jonah in the Hebrew scriptures is many things: prophecy, satire, metaphor. \*\*\*Remember to 'Spring Forward' and set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.\*\*\*

### MARCH 19

### ALTRUISM

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Van Summers, Worship Associate  
Understanding how we can make a difference for the better is always important, but it's especially urgent for us now.

### MARCH 26

### DISCIPLINES

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; Paul Wester, Worship Associate; and the Choir  
A phrase like "spiritual practice" might invoke in our minds images of specific rituals. That is one way of understanding spiritual practice, but ultimately it is about attitudes and ways of living.

### Minister's Column



Like a lot of folks at PBUUC and with Unitarian Universalists all over the USA, I have recently read *The Third Reconstruction*, a book by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, co-authored with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (<http://bit.ly/2cdjcnX>). This book is this year's Common Read of the Unitarian Universalist Association (<http://www.uua.org/re/adults/read>), and it gives me hope to know that our fellow UUs nationwide are reading this text, discussing it, and being inspired and motivated by it. It is part devotional, part historical analysis, and part activism handbook. An important theme in the book can be found in this statement: "Resist the 'one moment' mentality; we are building a movement! No one victory will usher in beloved community; no single setback can stop us. We are building up a new world, moving forward together toward freedom and justice for all." This remark reminds me that the work of transformation is not just the work of days, weeks and months, but of years, decades, and generations. Patience, perseverance and a refusal to abandon hope are essential, as is the recognition that we will almost certainly not see all of our goals come to fruition in our own lifetimes. Much of our work is planting seeds; much of it is building on the accomplishments and sacrifices (and learning from the mistakes) of those who came before us. Incremental progress can feel maddeningly slow at times, but complex problems that took centuries to create often do not yield to quick solutions. These kinds of thoughts are all the more important in the times in which we now find ourselves, as longstanding problems like racism, xenophobia, sexism and irresponsible stewardship of the earth seem to now be newly emboldened by narrow-minded and cruel political movements in our country and elsewhere in the world.

I am also reminded of how this "movement, not a moment" mindset is a metaphor for institutional life. In the life of a church like PBUUC, we work ceaselessly to build upon strengths and past accomplishments and to constructively address challenges. No one person, no one leader, no one moment will resolve all the church's problems and create an ideal organization that perfectly resolves every conflict, achieves every goal, and never has any shortfall of resources, be they financial or human. This is certainly a moment in the history of this church that is full of extraordinary possibilities. But the long march of answering our call to compassion, creativity and lovingkindness takes many forms and is achieved along many different paths. - Evan

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

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## PBUUC Leadership Directory

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

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

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

### 🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

* Van Summers (2014-17)	Mary Rooker (2016-19)
* Carol Carter Walker (2014-17)	Paul Wester (2016-19)
Beth Charbonneau (2015-18)	Abby Wester (2016-17)
Will Snyder (2015-18)	*Team Leaders

### 🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway  
Lynn Johnson  
Mike McMenamin  
Will Snyder

### 🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

vacant

### 🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Auction	Emily Conover (Visual Arts)
Budget Leadership Team	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds (co-chairs)	Kathi Yu
By-Laws Review	Lowell Owens & Peter Wathen-Dunn
Capital Campaign	Muriel Morisey
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
	Don Gerson, Chair
	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
	<a href="mailto:contactchurchoffice@pbuuc.org">contact church office</a>
Electronic Communications	Patty Daukantas
Finance	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Green Team (co-chairs)	<a href="mailto:ChurchOffice@pbuuc.org">Church Office</a>
Leasing (contact)	Ken Montville
Legacy Fund	Pat Behenna
Membership	[contact <a href="mailto:MinisterialSearchCmte@pbuuc.org">Ministerial Search Cmte</a> ]
Ministry	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Nominating	VACANT
Personnel	<a href="mailto:REcmte@pbuuc.org">REcmte@pbuuc.org</a>
Religious Exploration	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Site Improvement	Janet Overton
Social Action (SAC)	Chris Evans
Stewardship	<a href="mailto:Transition@pbuuc.org">Transition@pbuuc.org</a>
Transition Team	

### 🌀 Ministerial Search Committee - [Search@pbuuc.org](mailto: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
Children's Choir	Allison Hughes & Jeanne Judd
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Liz Citrin
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary 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 Rooker
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Elaine Shell
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Evangelina Wells & Louise Waugh
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Pat Behenna
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Louise Waugh

### 🌀 Minister 🌀

### 🌀 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:

The Rev. Evan Keely

David Chapman

Carla Miller

Sharon Werth

Charles Bury

Sade Ayinde

Roy Friday, CPA

Joel Yesupriya

Jazmin Balbuena

Beth Judy

### 🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tuesday), Will Snyder (Wednesday),  
Alice Tyler (Thursday), Janet Overton (Friday)

## Board of Trustees

The BOT held it's regular monthly meeting on February 21, 2017. All current members of the BOT attended the meeting. Additionally the Secretary and Treasurer were in attendance. There were eight additional members of the congregation present who contributed their historical knowledge and ideas to the discussion of several agenda items. Carol Boston served as Process Observer,

The agenda was changed to postpone nominations from the Nominating Committee until the March 5th Town Hall meeting per John Bartoli. Regular reports were presented by the Minister, DMRE, Treasurer and submitted by the Administrator and MSC. The BAG report on a sound system upgrade was presented by Van Summers. Other BAG items like the parking lot were postponed until the next meeting.

Van Summers presented proposals for refinancing the church's mortgage. Options included refinancing at a lower rate or having members pay off our mortgage. There was a lot of discussion among BOT members and congregation members about these proposals. The BOT did not decide to move forward on any of these proposals.

The BOT voted to use a consent agenda process in preparing for our meetings; to take an online UUA sponsored course in leadership; execute a letter of engagement with GRE Financial to carry out a process review of our finances that we approved last month; and to submit last year's number of members to the UUA while we send letters to persons whose intentions for membership are unclear based on participation and giving.

In his report for February, the minister, having read and recommended a 2004 PBUUC report to the BOT, Conflict Management Task Force, presented questions for the BOT to consider. As a result, the BOT decided to revitalize the Mediation Program involving persons originally involved like Marj Donn, Dave Haberman, and Barbara Fairfield if possible. The minister Rev. Keely and Co-Chair Carmelita Carter-Sykes will work on this.

Board actions that remain outstanding are: approval of the January minutes, BAG reports on replacement of RE Building door, outdoor classroom, and parking lot; convening the Council of Committee Chairs and reviving the Personnel Committee.

*Carmelita Carter-Sykes*, Board Co-Chair

## Ministerial Search Committee

### Greetings from the Ministerial Search Committee!

The Pre-candidating phase of our search is upon us! Interview questions have been prepared, references have been checked, plane tickets have been purchased, and hotel rooms have been reserved (special thanks to Kathi Yu for making all the neutral pulpit and travel arrangements for our pre-candidates and their families). We've put so much time and effort into planning for these weekends and it is **FINALLY HAPPENING**. You can't see me right now, but I am doing my Happy Dance.

We may not have been around much during this phase, but I promise we're not goofing off. If you're asking yourself, what exactly goes on during one of these weekends, you're in luck, because I'm about to tell you. There's a lot more to pre-candidating than just going to hear a minister preach at a different church on Sunday... the journey begins on Friday night.

On Friday, the minister will fly or drive into town with their spouse/partner/kids (if any) in tow. Families are encouraged to come along so they can get the lay of the land and see if they could be happy living in our area. That evening, the MSC, the minister, and their family will have dinner together, either at a restaurant, or at an MSC members home. This is a casual event, where we break bread and spend some time getting know each other.

On Saturday, the minister (and family) will get a guided tour. One or two members of the MSC will accompany the minister on a tour of our facilities. Remember all those requests to keep the place clean? Well, this is why. We'll also go on a real estate tour through local neighborhoods so they'll have a rough idea of the location and size of homes in our area. Saturday is also interview day. This is a private meeting where the minister and the MSC will share another meal and dive into some tough questions. The interview lasts about three hours, and that's **NOT** including the meal. We ask questions on the wide range of topics you've told us are important to you. We cover administration, church finance, RE, social action, staff and lay leadership relations, and everything in between. The MSC has talked a lot about finding the best possible match for us, but it's important to note that **WE** are being interviewed as well. Our pre-candidate needs to feel that PBUUC is a good match for **THEM**. This interview is our opportunity to have the "warts and all" conversation necessary in order to determine if we could have a successful ministry together. It's a long day for everyone involved, so we take Saturday night off to rest up for the next day.

On Sunday, the MSC will travel, incognito, to a neutral pulpit where we'll get to see our pre-candidate in action. We'll get to see them do Together Time, hear them preach, and scope them out during coffee hour. After service, we'll head to a restaurant where we'll share one last meal together. The aim here is to give both the MSC and the minister the opportunity to ask and answer some "last chance" questions. Once the bill has been paid and we've said our goodbyes, the MSC may choose to meet briefly to recap the weekend and give each other our initial impressions. ...and then we do it all over again.

As always, we thank you for your support as we inch closer to settled ministry.

**Ebeth Porter**—On behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee

### March Board Meetings:

**Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 pm**  
Executive Committee (RE Bldg)

**Saturday, March 18, 11 pm**  
Read-Aheads due to Board  
(email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto:BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org))

**Tuesday, March 21, 7 pm**  
Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)



## Religious Exploration

### The Time is NOW!

**Now** is the time to tell us you will teach in Children's Religious Exploration classes in 2017-2018. No, we are not asking you to teach now. We are asking you to make that commitment to teach now so that you can begin next year.

#### Why Now?

Each spring and summer, training workshops are offered through the UUA for teachers in Spirit Play and for Our Whole Lives. These classes fill quickly, and are held infrequently. NOW is the time to know if we have candidates ready to register for training.

#### What do R.E. Teachers do?

Teachers work in teams of four, with two adults in the classroom each Sunday. Each person teaches two Sundays per month. Our teachers learn alongside the children, from the material and also from the young people!

**There are several teaching roles to fill for next year.**

#### SPRIT PLAY

Grades Pre-K and Kindergarten, and Grades 1-3 follow the Spirit Play model, a Montessori-based program. Children enter the sacred space of Spirit Play through an opening ritual in their circle of community, song, and story. They are then invited to make individual choices of creative activities for their "work time."

The Spirit Play classroom is a peaceful and cooperative environment in which teachers experience minimal "discipline" challenges, as each child chooses what is most appealing to them. \*

The most important qualification for Spirit Play is that you enjoy children!

Our stories are drawn from many sources.

**In 2017-2018, our focus will be UU Identity-** UU biographies, living our principles, and other aspects of Unitarian Universalism.

**Spirit Play Doorkeepers-** greet each child warmly as they enter, help them to settle, to get the supplies they will need for their worktime, and support the peaceful flow of a Spirit Play class.

**Spirit Play Storytellers-** tell the story that is the center of any Spirit Play class, and lead the discussion of the story through "wondering questions," like those we use with our Wonder Box in Together Times. Learning the story is made simple by the use of objects representing the characters and main elements of the story. No storytelling experience is needed- a love of stories, and of children, are the best qualifications you bring!

#### JUNIOR YOUTH

Our Junior High class encompasses roughly Grades 4-7. (Varying somewhat dependent on the age distribution of the kids). Enjoying fun activities and probing conversations with young people are your best qualifications to lead our wonderful junior youth!

Next year, we are offering a FUN and interactive class for this age group called "Riddle and Mystery." This curriculum of the UUA addresses the Big Questions at the heart of all world religions; Who am I? What is my path in life? Where am I going? What happens when I die?

**Junior Youth Leaders** plan for and lead engaging activities and discussions. The primary activity of next year's class will be videotaping a "UU News" program, presenting their answers to these questions. No great technical skill is involved as the youth will script and film this show. A good camera- on your cell phone or other- will be helpful.

**Senior Youth Leaders-** Our senior high youth group is small and is not holding meetings at this time. As we organize ourselves for next year we will need to regroup to engage our senior high students. Your enthusiasm for working with this age group will be the key!

#### OUR WHOLE LIVES

The Our Whole Lives Human Sexuality classes offer comprehensive sexuality education in the context of Unitarian Universalist values: Rights, Responsibilities and Relationships. O.W.L. is taught through a series of age-appropriate classes at different stages of development. We need trained leaders at ALL stages of this amazing curriculum to continue to offer this to our congregation.

**Elementary O.W.L.** is offered at two different levels at PBUUC; Grades 1 & 2, and Grades 4 & 5.

Next year, we will be offering the class for **Grades 4 & 5.**

We need at least one male and one female teacher for this class! It is taught in **just 8 sessions**, and offered after service. Teachers may still attend all worship services.

Teaching O.W.L. is one of the most rewarding experiences in UU RE!

**Junior High O.W.L.** will be offered at the UU Church of Silver Spring. We would like to offer one teacher to the team if possible, and begin to build a trained cohort of teachers at PBUUC.

**Adult O.W.L.** classes may also be offered if we find teachers! You will need to attend the weekend long O.W.L. training. This class is very popular in many UU congregations. We'd love to offer it at Paint Branch; and extend our O.W.L. program to "Our Whole Lives."

All of our teachers receive the training and support they need to succeed in nurturing the learning, growth and faith formation of our children and youth. You will enjoy the experience of teaching in religious exploration classes; and you will be surprised how much you learn and grow yourself and your own faith and UU identity.

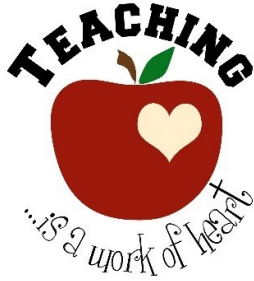
When you choose to teach, you choose a meaningful and essential role in the life of this congregation.

The time is now, because our children are our future, and they are also our Now! Please speak to **Carla Miller, MRE**, **Melissa Graham of the MRE Team**, or any of our wonderful R.E. teachers and volunteers to learn more!

*Carla Miller*, [DMRE@pbuuc.org](mailto:DMRE@pbuuc.org)

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

## RE Announcements



**RE Teacher Appreciation Brunch, March 12th**, following service. Our March 12th Birthday bash/game gathering will be a special Teacher Appreciation Brunch. ALL members of PBUUC who appreciate our teachers, are invited to join us in the Kelley Room for this celebration. **RE registration and volunteer registrations for 2017-2018 will also be available.** Please plan to attend! If you can bring a contribution of food, contact **Carla Miller**, [DMRE@pbuuc.org](mailto:DMRE@pbuuc.org) or 410-707-9611.

**Adult Religious Exploration is RE-forming an Adult RE Committee for RE-newal of Adult Classes.** Our Multigenerational Religious Exploration ministry has been lacking in one area, religious exploration classes for the adults of this congregation. Louise Waugh and Carla Miller are ready to change that as we form an Adult Religious Exploration Committee to plan for adult class offerings, organize and publicize those offerings. We look forward to working together with a small team to RE-new the energy of Adult RE. Please contact Louise [louisemwaugh@hotmail.com](mailto:louisemwaugh@hotmail.com), or Carla, [dmre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dmre@pbuuc.org), to let us know you want to be a part of this exciting new program growth.

**ALL Parents, Grandparents, and other Direct Caregivers of Children are invited to a Parent Discussion Group** from noon to 1:00 PM on Sundays, February 16<sup>th</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will introduce focus conversations on other parenting topics- such as discipline, sibling relationships, chores, and any topic you bring to the discussions. OWL topics, for those with children in the class especially, will also be covered. *Childcare will be provided for children of any age. Please contact Carla Miller, [dmre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dmre@pbuuc.org) to let us know the names and ages of your children so that we may provide appropriate staffing.*

## Visual Arts

**Exhibition in Meeting House Features Steve Myles' Paintings.** Our current exhibition features the paintings created by Steven Myles, a member of UU Church in Fairfax. Steve has painted predominantly landscapes in oil over the past several years and several of his landscape works have been accepted in juried shows in Alexandria, Reston and Vienna, VA and in Philadelphia. He has also been invited to show his work at the Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg and at the "Burwell Morgan Mill Art Show" from 2012-2016. His works can be seen at his website: [stevemylesart.com](http://stevemylesart.com). Steve can also create works on commission. His exhibition will be on view through mid-March. If you are interested in purchasing artwork, contact Steve through his website or [stevenjmyles@verizon.net](mailto:stevenjmyles@verizon.net)

## Stewardship

### Giving with Gratitude

Our 2017-2018 Annual Campaign is off to a great start. With a theme of "Giving with Gratitude" we have hosted a number of events in February that have been both fun and have moved us closer to our goals for the coming church year. We are grateful for everyone who attended and completed their pledge at the Multi-Generational Ice Cream Sundae Party, Leadership Event, Stewardship Breakfast, or Commitment Sunday Service. Now with only six weeks remaining in our campaign there are still two ways for you to make your pledge to PBUUC:

#1 – Visit the Stewardship Table: Every Sunday in March committee members will be at our Stewardship Table in the lobby after services to talk about the annual campaign, answer your questions, and invite you to complete your pledge card.

#2 – Meet with a Visiting Steward: If you prefer a personal visit, our incredible Visiting Steward Volunteers will contact you to make an appointment to complete your pledge. Please say "Yes!" when called as these conversations can be very meaningful as we share why we are so committed to PBUUC.

If you have any questions about our "Giving with Gratitude" Annual Campaign you can talk to any committee member (Chris Evans, Harry Schomberg, Will Snyder, Pat Tompkins, or Anita Williams) or drop us a line at [stewardship@pbucc.org](mailto:stewardship@pbucc.org)

**Chris Evans**, Stewardship Chair

## Membership Team

Longtime Attendees, Occasional or New Visitors, PBUUC Friends or Members who just want to review our UU faith and history:

### Our Membership Team wants to facilitate:

1) A discussion of Our Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism by John A. Buehrens, (would three or four Enrichment Hour sessions be convenient?)

to be followed by:

2) A class: Roots and Branches of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church and what it means to be a PBUUC member. (How about a Saturday morning?)

If you're interested in one or both of the above, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table or contact Pat Behenna. We want to be guided by the amount of interest and convenience of scheduled times.

Thank you! Contact: Pat Behenna at home at 301-776-4025 or by email at [behenna@verizon.net](mailto:behenna@verizon.net)

## Denominational Affairs

### Early Registration Open UUA General Assembly 2017 Our Denomination's Annual Gathering

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the denomination through use of the democratic process. There are many things to do virtually every hour of the day, from June 21 to June 25. Paint Branch will probably be entitled to four delegates and four alternates, but anyone who registers may attend.

This year's GA will be in New Orleans, Louisiana, one of America's most historically and culturally rich cities. Going to GA is a significant expense. However, there are ways to economize.

**Register Early. March 1 to April 30. After May 1, all fees increase.**

Adult: \$360; Youth (Grades 9-12): \$215; Off-site Registration: \$140 (you can participate in the general sessions, mini-assemblies, major worship services and view some workshops the day after they go live from the comfort of home, with the appropriate computer equipment.)

**Apply for Financial Assistance or Volunteer to Work at GA to Waive Your Registration Fee from March 1 to March 30.**

**Book Housing Early.** The [UUA Housing Website](#) is now open. Inexpensive and/or close-in housing often sells out within hours. Once you have registered, you will be added to an online GA Forum where information on transportation and hotel/dorms options will be shared.

Go to [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga) to get a panoramic view of what the 2017 GA will be like in terms of programming. Or talk to last year's Paint Branch attendees: Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Don Gerson, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Eric Most, Tricia Most, Lowell Ow-

### Election of next UUA President—Meet the Candidates!

The next president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will be elected this June during the annual General Assembly in New Orleans. There are three candidates running:

- ☞ The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
- ☞ The Rev. Alison Miller
- ☞ The Rev. Jeanne Pupke

We have an opportunity to meet the three candidates live and in person, right here in our own area at a Presidential Candidate Forum on Saturday, April 1, at Cedar Lane in Bethesda.

You can register to attend the Forum in person on the Central East Region website [ <https://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/better-together-central-east-region-leadership-day-and-uua-presidential> ]. It will also be live-streamed to locations throughout the Central East Region and available afterwards on video.

*Submitted by Bettie Young*



## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

### UUSJ Immigration Advocacy & Request for UU Interactions with ICE

UUSJ volunteers discussed concerns on Immigration with various Senate staffers during February. Of particular interest and worry was the apparent move by ICE to deny faith groups access to detention center facilities for witness and service. UUSJ's Immigration team was asked to follow-up on this development, provide documentation on the troublesome exchange, and ask its members to share stories of problematic interactions with ICE. Of particular interest is any instance of access to facilities being denied that is paired with documentation of said refused access.



### UU Church of Fairfax starts new concert series:

## Rise Up, Singing!

**Banding Together** Saturday, March 25, 2017

7 pm to 10 pm Battle of the Bands

Intergenerational bands compete for audience votes and "tips" that benefit UUCF youth and arts programs and the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#). \$10 adults; \$5 children 6-18; Family Max \$40; children under 6 free.

More information on other concerts in the series is at <https://uucf.org/worship/music-and-arts/concerts/> (all in the UUCF Sanctuary at 7 pm unless otherwise noted)

**April 8, 7:30 pm**—A Cappella sensations [The New Dominions](#)

**May 20**—UUCF Chorale and Chamber Orchestra perform the Rutter "Magnificat" and Moses Hogan spirituals

**May 28**—singer-songwriter [Zachary Scot Johnson](#)

**June 3**—contemporary acoustic duo [Chris and John Boehmer](#)

### River Road UU Congregation will host a screening and discussion of the movie [The Hunting Ground](#) on March 25 at 7 pm.

[The Hunting Ground](#) is a documentary about rape culture on college campuses and is appropriate for high school age and older. Tickets are \$10 and can be [purchased here](#). For more information, contact [Beth Irikura](#) [birikura@rruuc.org](mailto:birikura@rruuc.org), Religious Educator for Youth.





## Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

### Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 7 pm to 9 pm

DARTT will meet in person Tuesday, March 14, from 7 to 9 pm in Room 4. Please e-mail [DARTT@pbuuc.org](mailto:DARTT@pbuuc.org) or see Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson or Carol Carter Walker to place items on the Agenda. This meeting is open to members and friends of the PBUUC community.

#### DARTT Recommends:

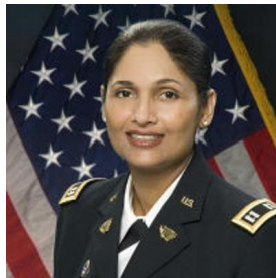
**Courage for Racial Justice, Courage for Collective Liberation: A Workshop For White People Featuring Chris Crass**—Saturday, March 11, 9 am to 1 pm, All Soul's Church, Unitarian, 1500 Harvard Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. This Workshop is geared towards white people and open to everyone.

This is an opportunity to hear from author, educator, and movement-builder Chris Crass. Crass is the author of *Towards the "Other America": Anti-Racist Resources for White People* Taking Action for Black Lives Matter and *Towards Collective Liberation: anti-racist organizing, feminist praxis, and movement building strategy*. He is a Unitarian Universalist who works with faith-based communities to help build the spiritual Left. This inspiring and interactive program is designed to help white folks deepen their commitment to racial justice, ground their work in the broader struggle for liberation, and connect with the resources needed to be courageous, resilient, and effective over the long haul.

Cost: Suggested donation of \$25. Those unable to pay \$25 are asked to pay \$15. Register now at <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/courage-racial-justice-0317?month=2017-03>

## Meet Our Guest Speaker for March 5

Chaplain Pratima Dharm was the first Hindu Chaplain in the United States Army and the entire Department of Defense. She was deployed to Iraq from 2007-2008 where she organized and led several Humanitarian Aid Missions for the Kurdish people in the northern part of Iraq, while serving on active duty. She retired from active duty service in March 2015 and pursued the path of becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister, which included a year-long internship at Accotink UU Church from the summer of 2015 to the summer of 2016. After completing all requirements, she was granted Preliminary Fellowship by the UU Ministerial Fellowship Committee in September, 2016. She now serves as a part time Chaplain at John's Hopkins in Baltimore and is scheduled to be the part-time Minister at Goodloe UU Church beginning in August 2017. She is married to Raj, her husband of sixteen years, and they have two daughters: Pooja (14 years) and Payal (9 years). She lives in Silver Spring, and along with her husband, is a member of Cedar Lane UU Church.



## Legacy Fund

### Paint Branch Legacy Fund Grants for 2017-2018

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that the amount available for potential grants from the Paint Branch Legacy Fund is \$3,100 (total). The Endowment Committee will be accepting grant applications through March 31, 2017 for use during the 2017-2018 church year. *This is a hard deadline.*

Typically, money is available for projects that have not been funded previously and need to be completed within the church year. There are no multi-year funds available. The Endowment Committee will meet in April to select the project(s) to fund.

You can obtain grant request forms from Ken Montville – [ken@mdsuburbs.com](mailto:ken@mdsuburbs.com)

Your generous contributions or bequests to the Paint Branch Legacy Fund will allow larger amounts to become available to fund great projects that fall outside the normal operating expenses of the church. Contact Ken Montville at [ken@mdsuburbs.com](mailto:ken@mdsuburbs.com) to find out how you can help the Paint Branch Legacy Fund grow.

## Budget Leadership Team

### Budget Leadership Team Begins Work for 2017-2018

The Budget Leadership Team, fondly known as "the BLT," has the job of developing the congregational budget for the upcoming church year that begins July 1, 2017.

The BLT is a Board-appointed committee, comprised of members from the Board, Finance, and Stewardship Committees as well as members of the congregation. The Church Treasurer is an *ex-officio* member. This year's BLT members are Carmelita Carter-Sykes, BOT Co-Chair; Tess Morrison, BOT Vice-Chair; Patty Daukantas, Finance Chair; Deron Lovaas, Stewardship Member; and Celinda Marsh and Carol Carter Walker, Members-at-Large.

The BLT works with committee chairs, affinity group leaders, staff, and officers to develop a budget to present to the congregation for review and discussion and then to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

E-mails have been sent out to these groups asking for budget needs, wishes, and dreams. Responses are due to the BLT at [BLT@pbuuc.org](mailto:BLT@pbuuc.org) by Friday, March 24.

Everyone in the PBUUC community will have the opportunity to attend one of two sessions to ask questions and provide ideas about the budget as it is being developed. Dates for these sessions will be announced in upcoming Bulletins and Continuums.

## Social Action Committee

### What Now? We Have a Plan

One positive outcome of the Trump presidency is the continuing wave of activism it has generated. Initial angst and rage seem to be transforming into organized resistance. A problem, however, is there are so many new organizations and groups asking for participation, support, and funding, it's hard to slog through the emails, and the number seems to be increasing.

**The New Social Justice Coalition.** Here at Paint Branch, some have expressed concerns that social justice activities seem to be all over the place, with committees competing for time and space and people from a limited pool of resources. So, the chairs of SAC, DARTT, and the Green Team met recently to discuss forming a coalition—the Social Justice Coalition.

It's in the early stages but we've already planned to coordinate efforts in the form of "Conscientious Projector" nights. We will be offering movies and documentaries covering a variety of social justice issues, including environmental justice for our planet. Please visit the Social Justice Bulletin Board in the hallway to find out about new and upcoming events and the next featured Conscientious Projector screening. In coming months we will offer other collaborative ventures. We heard your concerns and are working toward developing a more focused, cohesive approach to Social Justice at Paint Branch.

**UU-Wide Efforts.** UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ) has also been working to order the chaos. Through training, conferences, and campaigns, they hope to harness the determination of UUs nationwide to live into our Seven Principles. In the National Capitol region, UUSJ is channeling UU energies and focusing our efforts to create the change we want to see by using our proximity to the national seats of power and the accessibility of congressional offices and staff.

**UU Advocacy Training:** UUSJ invites UUs interested in making regular visits to Capitol Hill to join their Advocacy Corps to make regular visits to members of Congress and their staff on issues that protect human rights, our planet, and our democracy. We UUs in the national Capitol region are uniquely positioned to be the Hill presence for our denomination. The first of these monthly Capitol Hill visits happened on February 14. Harry Schomberg reported on the visit.

**Reversing Escalating Inequality Conference.** UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) and UUSJ are or-

ganizing this Conference for UUs nationwide with justice allies including [Sister Simone Campbell](#) and [Chuck Collins](#). The conference, which will run from Monday, April 3, through Wednesday, April 5, will give UUs an opportunity to advocate for UU values and promote UU Principles. During the Conference, we will learn about the issues and how to build advocacy skills. We will then visit Capitol Hill to talk with decision makers. To register, visit the website (<http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality>). For more information, contact Elizabeth at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 202-600-9132 or email [SAC@pbuuc.org](mailto:SAC@pbuuc.org). The rising tide of inequality, intolerance, and racism makes it critical for UUs to stand up for our values. The time is now.

—Janet Overton, SAC Chair [SAC@pbuuc.org](mailto:SAC@pbuuc.org)

### UUSJ's Advocacy Corps Visits Capitol Hill

UUSJ's Advocacy Corps, including three members from PBUUC, made its inaugural visit to Capitol Hill on Valentine's Day, visiting Maryland Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and Virginia Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner. PBUUC members were Patricia Behenna, Anne Hoover, and Harry Schomberg. The Advocacy Corps team included 19 members from seven area congregations. UUSJ's Advocacy Corps plans to make monthly visits to Capitol Hill on the second Tuesday of each month. For further information, contact Harry Schomberg at PBUUC or Lavona Grow at [Lavonagrow@mac.com](mailto:Lavonagrow@mac.com) or visit [UUSJ.org](http://UUSJ.org).



Senator Ben Cardin greets PBUUC member Anne Hoover, February 14.

### HEADS UP!!

## Warm Nights Week

IS SUNDAY, APRIL 9 – APRIL 16, 2017

Paint Branch has been participating in the Prince George's County Hyperthermia 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. Evangeline Wells and Louise Waugh are coordinating our efforts this year.



## In and Around Paint Branch

**REMINDER: Town Hall Meeting, This Sunday, March 5, in place of Enrichment Hour.** Agenda items include updates from the Board of Trustees, and discussion of Multigenerational Religious Exploration, Social Justice, Buildings and Grounds, and more.

### KITCHEN CONCERNS

In taking a good look at our Meeting House kitchen after using it for so many years, I've made some observations which I'll pass along here for all to consider. It is of course, as old as the rest of the building and showing its age and evidence of many years of wear of tear. It's important to us both in terms of our own use, and how it presents to any potential renters of our space. In my opinion we should be exploring plans to upgrade it, maybe doing that in three stages.

The first would be to improve its general appearance as we spruce up the rest of the building in preparation for a new minister. Some of us have been working on that after Sunday services for a few weeks. Anyone who would like to join us in that effort need only to stop by any Sunday and pitch-in. If you use the kitchen for any purpose during this time, please respect the work being done and leave it as tidy as you found it. If you've left any of your own dishes, pots, pans, utensils or food in there following any recent events, please retrieve them as we will soon be removing and disposing of any excess. The windows and window sills need to be washed and the plants removed and given some intensive care before returning. The untidy and non-hygienic trashcans, brooms and mops in the corner should be contained and perhaps relocated. The floor needs to be washed and waxed so, any staff responsible for this task, please let us know what this requires and when it can be done. Thank you so much to Jerome Louison for fixing the drawers and cabinet doors! What a difference!

The second stage would be a group, ideally made up of people who regularly use the kitchen and are familiar with it, to spend some time doing a more thorough cleaning, maybe this summer. Some suggested tasks include reorganizing the cabinets and drawers. Items of any type which we don't use or have too many of, should be disposed of (tossed, donated, recycled, or offered for donations). The remaining inventory and the new locations of all items might be listed in a small binder so all users could find and, just as importantly, correctly replace any item they use. The stoves, including the ovens, should be cleaned. The warming oven and its trays need thorough cleaning. The refrigerator should also be purged and thoroughly cleaned. Non-

kitchen items currently taking up space in the kitchen should be identified and relocated.

The third stage would be a group growing out of this process who would act as an on-going committee to form a plan for renovating the kitchen over the long-term. This would include replacing appliances, replacing or refinishing countertops, and repainting walls and cabinets. And possibly, a dream of mine, replacing the curved tables, dingy but oh so essential, with two similarly sized islands with storage underneath and locking wheels so they can be moved for floor cleaning or perhaps to occasionally serve as buffets in another space. Financing for much of this could come from Legacy Fund grants over a period of several years.

Then I hope, after investing all their thought and work into this project, those involved would remain working as a kitchen committee to keep a watchful eye on the kitchen and continue to maintain what is one of our primary assets.

I offer all this as observations and suggestions. I'll be happy to help if others are like-minded, but would like to see it as a cooperative venture with no one (especially me!) in charge.

—Marilyn Pearl

**The next TWedHUULK lunch** (the 3rd Wednesday of each month) will be 1 pm on March 15 at the Greek Village Restaurant -- one of my favorites in Silver Spring. With a Greek/American menu it seems there are plenty of dining options. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Elaine Shell at 301-776-4271 or [TWedHUULK@pbuuc.org](mailto:TWedHUULK@pbuuc.org) for information. See you there.

### ♪ ♪ Music at Paint Branch ♪ ♪

**STRATA**, the incredible instrumental trio, consisting of pianist Audrey Andrist, violinist James Stern and clarinetist Nathan Williams, will present the first concert in our church concert series of 2017. German romanticism, Parisian charm, Eastern exoticism and American swagger all come to life in this program entitled "From Classics to Slang," Sunday, April 2, at 4 pm.

This is a FREE concert with donations appreciated. The performers will introduce the pieces during the concert and you may talk to them afterwards at the marvelous reception provided by Pat Tompkins.

### The Women's Group

The Women's Retreat will be Saturday, March 4. Sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30eob4aaaab2ea2fb6-pbuuc3> The requested donation of \$20/person or \$25 for a family can be paid today or at the door. All members and friends of PBUUC who identify as female are welcome. Childcare will be available; however, we need to know in advance to arrange sufficient care-givers. Contact Louise Waugh 301-474-5229 or [LouiseMWaugh@hotmail.com](mailto:LouiseMWaugh@hotmail.com).

### 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 re-turned 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. **Short announcements to be read by the Worship Associate during the Sunday Service are also due then.**
- **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.**

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