



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Affirming and promoting the inherent dignity and worth of every person since 1954

AUGUST 2008

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES — all 10:00 am

Followed by Coffee Time and then *Enrichment Hour*—small group programs (11:45–12:45)

**** Summer Fun during all services this month!**

Multi-age gathering for children ages 5 and up, Kelley Room, 10am **

AUGUST 3

MUSIC AND POETRY SERVICE

John Bartoli, with Pat Tompkins, worship associate

John Bartoli with Worship Associate Pat Tompkins will lead the annual “Music and Poetry” Service. It’s hot. It’s August. Cool off with fresh breezes from our locally grown lyrical force, energized once more in our annual poetry and music service. Let us put it another way...

Once a year, we gather here, with music, poems, and song
Hear us tweak the Muse to speak, to Paint Branch come along...
How can you resist?

AUGUST 10

GATHERING AROUND THE CHALICE

Bruce Baker, worship associate

Gathering Around the Chalice: Bob Rand and other participants from the Small Group Dialog on Race and Ethnicity and the book discussion group on *Soul Work: Anti-racist Theologies in Dialogue* have experienced powerful transformative experiences in the honest dialog about race and wholeness that is taking place in both forums. Members from each group will share personal experiences and insights from confronting and exploring together the painful consequences of racism and what it means to move toward wholeness at Paint Branch and beyond.

AUGUST 17

SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN

Marilyn Pearl, worship associate

America history extols the virtues of rugged individualism and competition as a means to excellence. Marriage and family therapist Tricia Most questions how well our mental and spiritual health is served by these popular American ideas, how they promote cultural and personal silence and their influence on democracy in our nation.

AUGUST 24

WAGING PEACE

Rev. Keith Kron, guest minister and speaker

Unusual things happen in the Van Gogh Café and you leave with a different perspective on the world. Our guest speaker is the Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns for our Unitarian Universalist Association. Rev. Kron was an elementary school teacher before he entered UU ministry. This will set up our afternoon with our Ministerial Search-sponsored workshop, Beyond Categorical Thinking, which Rev. Kron will also lead.

AUGUST 31

VISIONS OF VITALITY

Tim Illig, Chair of Dedicated to Inspiring Vitality (DIV) Team, with Michael Léger, worship associate

The DIV Team is excited to share with the congregation why we are Dedicated to Inspiring Vitality (DIV). We'll remember some of the visions and plans that have gotten Paint Branch to where it is today. We'll give some personal accounts about why we are revisiting the purpose and mission of our congregation. We hope that everyone will leave this service feeling inspired and ready to participate in revisioning the shared ministry of Paint Branch with the assistance of the consultant the DIV Team will be bringing to our congregation in the fall. A Reverberations session immediately after the service will allow every friend and member an opportunity to share their vision of a vital and evolving Paint Branch UUC. There will also be a special Enrichment Hour activity giving each of us a chance to create our own Personal Ministry Statement.

Roots and Wings

By the Revs. Phyllis L. Hubbell and John P. Manwell

PHYLLIS: Here in Maine, where we're vacationing, the first leaves are already beginning to turn yellow and red, vivid reminders that the summer is passing. As August begins, we officially close out our years in Baltimore and enter into a new beloved community at Paint Branch.

JOHN: We have such fond memories of your church. It is here that we preached our precandidating sermon fourteen years ago in March. We remember your lovely meeting house, surrounded by bare beauty of trees and bushes just beginning to send out buds. We met with Baltimore's search committee in one of your classrooms, from which we could see crocuses in bloom, the first we had seen that icy spring. Five years later, with First Church member Denise Davis, I led a start-up workshop for Barbara and Jaco's new ministry.

There's a painful memory as well – it was at Paint Branch, as I was meeting with Ed Kobee and Al Usack and the Interfaith Fairness Coalition of Maryland, that I heard the news of the twin towers attacks on that infamous September 11.

PHYLLIS: Over the years, we have come here for a variety of events, always admiring the loveliness of your setting. We have worked with a few of your members in the course of our work for justice. On all these occasions, you welcomed us warmly and blessed us with your hospitality.



In the year ahead, we look forward to a closer relationship, as we reflect together on what this church "might yet be." What do you yearn to be? How might this church and its new ministry make a difference in our lives,

and in our community; in Maryland and in the world around us? What does each of us bring to this journey? What holds us back?

JOHN: Our first task is to listen. Some years ago, we read of a woman who went to a foreign country, and sat down in a public space with a sign that said "I am an American, and I am here to listen." We are interim ministers and we are here to listen.

We want to know you, and we encourage you to get to know us, individually and as a couple. Call us for an appointment. Meet us for coffee. At least for the first month, we will schedule specific hours for such meetings. We want to know - What are your dreams for Paint Branch? What are your hopes and your fears? Where do you feel called to offer your gifts? Where do you feel the spirit leading this congregation?

PHYLLIS: In these conversations and others, we invite you to join us in extended reflection on the vision of this church. If you have a spiritual practice or other time during which you reflect upon your life, we invite you to take some time to consider this beloved community of which you are each integral parts. This precious time that we have together is a gift. Let us use it well. h's



OFFICE HOURS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Our new interim ministers are, at time of print, developing a schedule for their "in office" hours, which will be posted in the Weekly Bulletin following their arrival on August 15th. If you would like to make an appointment with either Rev. Phyllis Hubbell or Rev. John Manwell, please contact the church office for their available hours.

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you need dedicated time, it's best to schedule an appointment. Contact us by phone at 301-937-3666 or by e-mail at churchadmin@pbuuc.org. The Church Administrator will be on vacation Monday, August 4th and Tuesday, August 5th. The office will be running on a reduced schedule on those days, 9 am to 2 pm.

A Word from our Board Chair

By Kate Brett

As I type, the temperature is already 86° at 10:30 am. It is summer, the time of year that, in many parts of the world, people slow down due to the heat. That doesn't always happen for many people in the modern age, where technology can control the climate of our buildings and vehicles and vacations are limited. In my case, between a full-time job, two elementary-aged children, and my various hats at church, I now have more on my plate than ever before.

So, what is the Board of Directors doing this summer? This June, the new board met for 1 ½ days to get oriented as a group to our roles and responsibilities for this coming year. We also worked with the interim ministers to help set their priorities during this interim year. The church has a very dedicated group of people willing to serve as board members this year. You can see a picture from the retreat on this page.

One of the pressing issues that we will be working on early in this board year is trying to make sure all of our standing committees and activity groups have both leadership and members. We are a church that has a lot going on. In the rest of this issue of *Branches*, you will find many, many different activities that are being planned. There are many other activities that are not mentioned here but that need people to help work on them.

It takes everyone to get involved to make our church work well. Not everyone wants to lead an activity, or go to meetings, or clean the kitchen. However, if everyone found one or two activities that they could help with, we'd be able to do a great deal more than we can currently.

Some of our most dedicated members of the congregation are now serving on the Ministerial Search Committee. That means that there are committees such as Personnel and Social Action that really need additional members. There are also new activities that need people, such as the Interim Minister Transition Team.

I want to strongly encourage everyone to attend the activities after our fall ingathering on

Sept. 7th, when many groups will be available to talk to potential volunteers about opportunities they have. I also want you to think about using church either as a place to extend the skills and talents you already have **or** as a place to learn something new and different. I myself have never been involved with financial management, but I ran the Budget Leadership Team last year and learned tremendously. Look at church as providing a place for growth and development, not only of your spiritual self but also of your skills and even career opportunities.

I hope you are enjoying your summer. Talk to me, either at church or by phone or e-mail, about any issue or concern you might have. I want to make our church the best it can be for everyone.

Kate h



From Left to Right:
Anita Wagner – Board Secretary, Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, Carol Carter Walker – Vice Chair, Rev. John Manwell, Ellen Cotts – Treasurer, Ken Montville, Cathleen Barnes, James Alexander, Kate Brett – Board Chair, Jonathan Mawdsley – Vice Chair.
Board Members not pictured:
Diane Niedzalkowski



Ministerial Search Committee *by John Bartoli*

We Retreat Together and Advance Towards Our Goal and Beyond...

The eight members of the Ministerial Search Committee went on an overnight retreat to Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, Maryland, at the beginning of July. The Joseph Priestley District provided us with a facilitator, **Judith Bauer**, who was well experienced with running retreats and in particular retreats for search committees. Judith led us through a number of playful and thoughtful exercises that helped us learn more about each other, discover what our talents are, and reinvigorate our reasons for being on the search committee.

We created a covenant where we pledged to dedicate ourselves to the ministerial search in a confidential, honest, and communicative process. Above all we dedicated ourselves to find out, to the best of our ability, what the congregation was looking for in its next settled ministry in particular and the future direction of the church in general.

With this as our core, we were able to consider more of the business of the committee. We discussed some principles for making the many decisions we will have to make along the way to finding a successful candidate(s) for Paint Branch. Judith also led us through the basic techniques of interviewing potential candidates, both on the phone and in person.

All this preparation led up to the parceling out of the individual tasks that comprise a Search Committee's work. Within a few minutes, all the jobs were filled. **Bettie Young** and **Michael Leger** will Co-Chair the committee. Michael and Bettie also agreed to be point persons on checking references of prospective candidates. Bettie Young will also be the MSC member on the compensation committee that determines the financial package we will offer our future minister(s). **Muriel Morisey** will continue to keep the minutes and monitor internal communication within the committee. **Rene McDonald** will head the effort to create and edit our "packet," the information that we send potential interested candidates about our own congregation. Rene will also arrange appropriate hospitality for candidates that make the first cut.

Marge Owens will be the committee Treasurer. **Tricia Most** will arrange the neutral pulpit sites for the "pre-candidating" weeks. **Beth Lyons** will head the information gathering phase of our work, looking at congregational survey results and organizing cottage meetings. **John Bartoli** will work as "communications czar," keeping the congregation informed of the committee's progress through newsletter articles, web presence, and other public relations vehicles.

By the time you read this article, we will have met with our District Search Representative, **Nancy Dean**. This will be our chance to coordinate with her our planned calendar checklist of tasks to perform to keep us on track for a successful search.

We have also arranged for a UU- sponsored congregational service and workshop called Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. On Sunday, August 24, our new interim ministers, **Phyllis Hubbard** and **John Manwell**, along with **Keith Kron** of the UUA and Worship Associate **Tosha O'Neal**, will present a search-related worship service at 10a.m. followed by a 3-hour workshop designed to help us consider our hopes, expectations and concerns in regard to our search for new settled ministry. Lunch and child care will be provided. For further information, please see the article on the BCT elsewhere in this newsletter or contact **Tricia Most** at **301-445-2821** or e-mail her at patricia_most@msn.com. Please attend if you can make it.

We will continue to meet on a weekly basis through the summer and through the entire search process. If you have any questions about the search or about the work of our committee, please do not hesitate to stop and ask any one of us. Call me, John Bartoli, at 301-441-2516 (john.bartoli@verizon.net) and I will answer your questions or put you in touch with a member of our committee or congregation who will be able to help you. Thanks for your support. H



Ministerial Search Committee News – cont'd

The Ministerial Search Team Needs Your Participation On Sunday August 24, 2008

As you know, the Search Committee's work in seeking new settled ministry is underway. One of the first steps in the search process is the Beyond Categorical Thinking program at church on Sunday, August 24, 2008. The program begins with the 10:00am worship service, after which there will be a congregational luncheon, followed by a 3-hour workshop. Both the worship service and workshop will be led by **Keith Kron** of the UUA to help Paint Branch members and friends think about new settled ministry.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) program works with Unitarian Universalist congregations to promote inclusive thinking by creating opportunities for conversations and reflection, and for the congregation to identify issues related to identity. We will be encouraged to consider our hopes, expectations, biases, and concerns regarding new ministry, learn more about the search process, and explore how thinking categorically about people interferes with choosing the best candidate. Congregational involvement in the August 24 worship service and 3-hour workshop will help us to think about next steps in our Search process, such as further consultation, education, or training beyond the BCT program.

The Search Committee urges your participation in this important program! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend both the worship and the 3 hour workshop and to enjoy the gourmet luncheon in between.



Our facilitator for the Beyond Categorical Thinking program, **Keith Kron**, is the Director of the Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns from the UUA Office of Identity-Based Ministries. He will lead the worship service with worship associate **Tosha**

O'Neal, Phyllis Hubbard and **John Manwell**, our new interim ministers, will also be involved in this important BCT program.

O Child Care and the luncheon are being provided to encourage you to commit to full attendance in the worship and 3 hour workshop. Because this invitation is extended to the entire congregation, it will be most helpful to hear about your attendance plans in advance. You can do this by phoning **Tricia Most** at **301-445-2821** or you can email her at patricia_most@msn.com. To suggest, request, or volunteer to be part of the team that plans the luncheon menu and logistics, please contact Tricia. If you have suggestions, requests, or wish to volunteer to plan activities for different ages of children during the program, please phone **Carla Miller** at **301-725-5545** or email her at dre@pbuuc.org.

The selection of new ministry is an important decision and a valuable opportunity in the life of Paint Branch. The BCT program provides opportunities for personal growth and involvement in the Search process. Please plan to attend! A web page to learn more about the Beyond Categorical Thinking program can be found at our denomination's website: <http://archive.uua.org/programs/idbm/bct/>



Paint Branch Annual Retreat/Outing Postponed until Spring.

The church's fall calendar is so full mainly due to the increased activities involved in getting acquainted with our interim ministers, preparing to call our next settled minister(s) and activities relating to the vitality of the Congregation, etc., that we're postponing the annual retreat/outing until Spring. Watch this space for the opportunity to work on this community-building activity!

Financial Notes

by Ellen Cotts, Treasurer

It is the dog days of summer. Very hot and it has been humid, although not today. Fortunately I don't mind the heat but I know that fall is coming with an upsurge in church activity. We seem to be off to a good start with wonderful summer services led by our talented and resourceful Worship Associates. I know we are all looking forward to having Phyllis Hubbell and John Manwell with us as Interim Ministers.



But that brings me to another financial topic, and that is the search for a new settled minister. I am very familiar with the process since I work with search committees in this area on behalf of the UUA (Although they won't allow me to work with my own congregation). Nevertheless, I know that it is expected that the search will cost about \$24,000 over two years.

What, you ask, could possibly cost so much? First, the Search Committee (SC) goes on retreat. This has already happened and I am told that it went very, very well. An experienced facilitator was provided by the JPD. For this we received a discount because we pay our Fair Share Dues to JPD.

From now until about October, the SC will be putting together the materials that will tell candidates who we are and what skills and talents we need in a minister. That part of the process costs a bit for materials, phone calls and mileage, but really not very much.

Then soon after Christmas, the SC will begin interviews with several (probably 3 or 4) of the final candidates. These candidates will fly here for a weekend of intense meetings with the SC. The church will be responsible for paying their air fare, hotel bills and meals. Obviously this can be rather expensive.

Later, say around April or May, the final candidate and his/her entire family will come here to meet the congregation. They will be here for a full week, including two Sundays. Again the church is responsible for air fare, hotel bills and meals.

That much of the Search process is expected to cost about \$12,000. Next year we expect to spend an additional \$12,000 to move the candidate and his or her family to this area and to have a wonderful Installation celebration. So the long and the short of it is that we need about \$12,000 this year and another \$12,000 next year.

However, due to the shortfall in pledges for this year, the BLT was able to budget only \$2,000 with the understanding that this cannot be allowed to limit the SC in its task. They will spend whatever they need to spend and we will have to find whatever money they need.

There are a number of ways we can meet this need. First of course, we will always accept donations. Just put Search Committee in the memo of any check you send in. As the year goes on, we may have special fund raisers for the Search. You can also donate Frequent Flyer Miles or Hotel Points. If you wish to do either of these things, please call Marge Owens and let her know. As a member of the SC, she will be responsible for working out the details.



The Search is the most important thing we will do this year. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated and wise people working on it. I am confident that they will make the best choice of a minister to move us ahead in the future. And we WILL provide the resources they need. Keep the faith! h

Religious Exploration (RE) News

Carla Miller, DRE

The Mission and Ministry of Paint Branch UU Religious Exploration is to strengthen the spirit, encourage ethical action, and create community.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Carla plans and hopes to be in the office very infrequently until August 18 when her regular half-time hours resume. *Please feel free to contact Carla* at her home phone, 301-725-5545 or by email at dre@pbuuc.org.

UPCOMING in RE

Saturday, Aug. 23-Sunday, Aug. 24

Peace Camp: Summer day camp and overnight

Tuesday, September 2nd

RE Teacher Dinner and Orientation

Sunday, Sept. 7

All Ages Ingathering Service followed by RE Open House

Sunday, Sept. 14

RE Classes begin for 08-09 church year

For This coming fall: TEACHERS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED IN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Religious Exploration is a cooperative program of the entire church. Parents and non-parents alike are encouraged to share in this important responsibility and faith development opportunity within our church. All families with children enrolled in our program are expected to volunteer in RE in some way. We still have a few teaching positions open for next fall, particularly in grades 4/5 and with our Middle School Youth. We are also in need of "children's worship associates" who will work with Carla to plan for and lead the children's chapels and Middle School Worship and Workshop gatherings. Please contact **Carla Miller** to learn more!

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SAVE THE DATE for PEACE CAMP 2008



Our 3rd Annual End-of-Summer RE Gathering, a one day camp with optional overnight – Sat., Aug 23 – Sun., Aug 24!

This year's **PEACE CAMP** theme is brought to PBUUC by the *Little Friends for Peace* organization. *Little Friends for Peace* is planning a program based on **cooperative games, art activities, skits and role-playing** for all to enjoy while we:

- ☺ **build our communication and conflict-management skills**
- ☺ **renew our old friendships and build some new ones**
- ☺ **renew our commitment to our UU Principles, especially:**
 - **kind and fair relationships with other people, and**
 - **building a peaceful world community.**

Young people entering grades 1-8 are invited to join in the fun!

The program fee is \$35 per child. This includes all activities, craft materials, snacks, dinner, campfire treats, and breakfast. Each camper will bring home a camp hat, peace journal, and earth ball. Please pack a bag lunch for Saturday. An additional donation of \$10 per family toward church operating costs is suggested for those who will stay for dinner, overnight and breakfast. Contact **Carla Miller** to register your child or to volunteer to help make it happen!

AUCTION NEWS

Hey, did you know that it is only one hundred days until the next PBUUC Services Auction? From August 1 to November 8 is just one hundred short days. Have you marked your calendar? Decided what to offer in the Auction Catalog? Made your shopping lists? Remember – no one knows what gasoline will cost in one hundred days, but you know that you'll save by coming to PBUUC for dinner, music, shopping and fun with your friends, all in one nearby location.

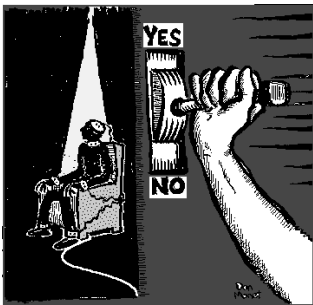
Social Action Committee News

By Marge Owens

Review of “Ultimate Punishment: a Lawyer’s Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty” by Scott Turow.

During the 2008 session of the MD General Assembly the author Scott Turow spoke before an evening meeting called by CASE (Citizens Against State Executions) and MD ACLU. His book follows his own struggle with his stance on capital punishment through accounts of criminal prosecutions as well as legal defense work he took on. The account of his service on the Illinois Governor’s Commission on Capital Punishment between 1999 and 2002 is as compelling as his bestselling novels, which often take up a large section of airport bookstores.

In May of 2002, Maryland’s governor, Parris Glendening, followed the Illinois governor, George Ryan, in imposing a moratorium on the death penalty. The work of the Maryland Commission issued a report very similar to that produced in Illinois: Recommendations were made for the elimination of the death penalty and the substitution of life without parole for those convicted of heinous murders.



Scott Turow builds his book around his own conversion from holding that there were any number of reasons to impose the death penalty. He finally came to the conclusion that there is never going to be a case where there is no

doubt at all of the guilt of the person convicted. He participated in clearing many of those on death row in Illinois, often through DNA analysis. These were long struggles. His writing through the 115 pages of text keeps the reader glued to the page. He includes a section reprinting the report of the Commission on Capital Punishment he helped write, and 38 pages of legal citations at the end of the book.

The efforts to pass legislation, substituting life with no parole for capital punishment in Maryland this year, failed by a small margin. Gov. O’Malley has appointed another study commission. The issue will be pursued again with vigor. h

Should Paint Branch become a Green Sanctuary?

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness. The revitalized Green Team invites new members to join us. The next meeting is Sunday, August 17 or you can talk with **Marj Donn**, temporary chair, to learn what you can do.



SAC Lending Book Library

We have accumulated a box of stunning books on the issues the SAC has dealt with over the past two years. We plan to make them available in the foyer on Sunday mornings as a lending library. Just sign the card and leave it in the box.

Project Vote Smart

Our August special collection--on the 31st--will benefit Project Vote Smart, an organization dedicated to providing accurate non-partisan information on candidates for election, both on national and state levels. They compile, and make available to all voters free of charge, information on issue positions, voting records, biographical background, campaign finances and performance evaluations. You will have an opportunity to learn more about Project Vote Smart at an Enrichment Hour presentation on Aug. 10. If you have questions, contact **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353.



Social Action Committee News Cont'd

Paint Branchers Newly Trained Voter Registration Volunteers

Congratulations to 13 members who have just received certification from the Maryland Board of Elections and Ethics as Voter Registration Volunteers.

On July 13, **Mel McCottry**, NAACP Voter Empowerment Project Coordinator for the Prince George's County Chapter, trained **Bob Baker, Carol Boston, Marj Donn, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Muriel Morisey, Tricia Most, Marge Owens, Raman Pathik, Carol Roberts, Amy Steiner, Carol Carter Walker, Peter Wathen-Dunn** and **Evangeline Wells**.

We are now empowered to register voters, process change of addresses and party affiliations. This activity is being jointly sponsored by the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team and the Social Action Committee. Look for announcements in the Bulletin and Branches as the group plans its outreach activities.

Health Care Update for Maryland

As of July 1, 2008 tens of thousands of Marylanders are now eligible for Medicaid who had previously been left in the dark. House Bill 6 from the 2007 Special Session, The Working Families and Small Business Health Coverage Act of 2007, enacted by Governor Martin O'Malley and members of the Maryland General Assembly took effect July 1. As the law is phased in over the next couple of years, eventually over 100,000 Marylanders will now have access to great comprehensive care because of this legislation.

Do you know friends, relatives or neighbors who might qualify? Are you involved with organizations that we might be able to connect with to find these eligible Marylanders? Any help would be appreciated and if you think you might know an angle please call us at 410 235 9000 or write info@healthcareforall.com. *(article cont'd next column)*

New Program, New Application

With the new expansion, there is also a brand new Medicaid application. The state Health Department has streamlined the new application a bit, including the removal of barriers to access such as the previously needed in-person interview. These steps were taken to try to make the process easier.

With the new application, Baltimore Health Care Access volunteers have put together an income guideline chart for Marylanders to refer to enroll new people. It has guidelines for Medical Assistance for Families (Medicaid), the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), and the Primary Adult Care Program (PAC). The chart can be found on the internet at:

http://www.healthcareforall.com/parameters/healthcareforall/uploads/dl/Main/MAF_Income_Charts_2008.pdf

Journey Toward Wholeness Film Festival Continues

The Paint Branch UU Church Journey Toward Wholeness Film Festival continues on Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 11:45 a.m. Child care and snacks are provided. (A donation is requested for snacks.) If you missed an episode, not to worry! The parts are self-contained. You can also see the 'encore' screening of each episode beginning Friday, August 15. No need to sign up. Just show up—and bring a friend!

Here's the link for the entire schedule <http://www.pbuuc.org/socact/dartt/filmfestival2008.pdf> Flyers are also available in the Meeting House Lobby. The schedule is being revised to accommodate some all-church activities, e.g., Beyond Categorical Thinking on August 24 and the In-Gathering Activities on Sunday, September 7.

The Journey Toward Wholeness Film Series is being presented by the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) to facilitate the congregation's commitment to work toward becoming an anti-racist, more diverse community. If you have questions about the film series or the anti-racism initiative or this series, please contact DARTT at dartt@pbuuc.org.

***Diversity / Anti Racism
Transformation Team &
Social Action Committee***

**“Soul Work: Reflections on a Book
Discussion Group.”**

One of the most interesting and meaningful experiences that I have had in my eight years at Paint Branch was my participation earlier this summer in a book discussion group led by **John Bartoli** and **Carol Carter Walker**. For ten weeks, a group of Paint Branchers met every Sunday evening to discuss one of the chapters in the book “Soul Work.” “Soul Work” is a collection of essays that explore various aspects of the spiritual work that is necessary to confront racism and other forms of oppression within church congregations. Because many of the authors are Unitarian Universalist ministers and theologians, our group found this to be an especially relevant book to read and discuss.

Although the book was fascinating, the real work of the group took place as we openly and honestly discussed issues of race and diversity in our congregation. Through the personal sharing that took place in the group, I began to understand for the first time what our church looks like to persons who come from different ethnic and racial backgrounds than my own. The conversations raised some difficult and challenging questions about the ways in which we welcome (or do not welcome) newcomers - and even long-term members – who are from diverse backgrounds. Our conversations also touched on the images and messages that our church conveys about itself (knowingly or not) to our visitors and to the broader community in which we live.

I have to admit that I have always wondered why our church did not look more like the community in which it is situated. According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the population of Prince George’s County is approximately 67% African American, and only 27% European American. If you look around the meeting house on a typical Sunday, this is certainly not the demographic make-up of the Paint Branch congregation. We pride ourselves on being a friendly, liberal, and welcoming congregation, and yet somehow our church membership is significantly different than the broader community around us.

Now that we are in a period of ministerial transition, we have a unique opportunity as a congregation to ask the hard questions about who we are, how we got that way, and what specific steps we need to take in order to build a more inclusive community at Paint Branch. I would encourage every Paint Brancher to participate in the series of movies, workshops, and discussion groups that the Diversity and Anti-Racism Transformation Team will be sponsoring over the coming church year. For me, the Soul Work discussion group was a truly transformative experience in my spiritual journey as a Unitarian Universalist, and I am looking forward to the challenging yet rewarding work that lies ahead. h

Jonathan Mawdsley
Vice Chair, Paint Branch Board of Trustees



LOST AND FOUND

There are several winter coats that are still hanging on the coat racks in the Meeting Room. If yours has gone “astray” perhaps we have it here. Please check on

it on an upcoming Sunday. Any unclaimed coats still present at the end of August will be donated to a local charity.



In and Around Paint Branch

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE CREWS

Although we'd already done dinners on 7 Mediterranean countries, 4 of those each twice, **Don Gerson's** suggestion we do Malta grew into a decision to do a Mediterranean Cruise on May 17, sampling the foods of the other 15 or so countries which may never support a dinner of their own. The ingredients available to each are similar, but the dishes they put them in range from almost identical to amazingly different! This dinner confirmed the appeal Mediterranean food holds for Americans. We may never all agree on *Kibbeh* (raw lamb) or *Pate de Foie de Volaille* (chicken liver) – love them or hate them, but *Caponata* (eggplant relish) is an old PBUUC favorite and *Zaatar* (dried herbs), a new surprise.

The evening began on a sad note as **Jaco ten Hove** informed us of the deaths of his brother Jay and Paint Branch member, **drex Andrex**, along with the realization that this would be his and **Barbara's** last Ethnic Dinner prior to their move to Bainbridge Island. But, we were also able to help **Eric Most** celebrate receiving his MBA earlier that day.



As usual, the efforts of many people combined to make the dinner a success. **Mike Stark** once more did double duty overseeing set-up and the bar which, for this dinner,

required samplings from multiple countries. Helping him with set-up were **Joe Dever, Sandy Roberts, Marie and Jack Gore, Erika Teal and Jim Dietz. Tina Van Pelt** helped tend the bar, and **Carol Carter-Walker** tended the door. Cooks for this very varied menu included veterans **Marilyn Pearl, Cathy Helmold, Marcie Washburn, Adeline Wilcox, Kathy Kearns, Don Mitchell, Joe Dever, Rene McDonald and Tricia Most** who purchased the olive bread, and brave first timers, **Lisa Lincoln, Melissa Graham, Jennifer Wright, and Tanya and Andy Mehri** (Marilyn's daughter and Algerian son-in-law). A wonderful selection of recorded Mediterranean music was provided by **David Chapman**.

We had two building managers for the evening. **Jesse Crowley** came early and helped set up, and **Chuck Bury** then took over to operate the sound system, clean up and close the building. Assisting him with cleanup were **Erika Teal** (who had the first load in the dishwasher before the main buffet was open), **Jim Dietz, Muriel Morisey, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Kathy Kearns, James Alexander, Patty Daukantas, Mike Stark, Cathy Helmold, Jennifer Wright, Melissa Graham, Paul Osborne and Marilyn Pearl. Kathy Kearns** also laundered the tablecloths and **Penny O'Brien** helped clean in the kitchen the following morning.

The next dinner, **October 25, 2008**, will be our **50th Ethnic Dinner** and mark **20 years** since they began in Nov. 1988! We are currently discussing several suggestions for a special theme for this important occasion. Whether the dinners continue beyond this significant milestone will, in large part, depend on the attendance and support in evidence at that time. There are still too few people doing too much of the work. Maintaining our aging kitchen makes Ethnic Dinner proceeds more essential than ever, but fresh energy and ideas are essential. Remember, "So many countries, so much food, so little time!" We've not run out of countries or food, but what about time? h

Suitland High School Art Show thru August

Art work by Suitland High School VPA students will be on display in the meeting house during July and August. The show features paintings, drawings, prints, and computer-graphics. It is a "Thank you", as VPA instructor **Phyllis Wilson** puts it, for our church's continued support, which has been ongoing since 2002. That year, **Sylvia Lagerquist** and **Barbara Ten Hove** developed the concept of supporting Suitland's Visual and Performing Arts program by featuring performances and exhibits at our services and taking special collections. Each year a different department at the school has benefitted from these special collections, each of which has approached \$1000. Come and see the fruits of this special relationship our church has with these exceptional young artists



h Jane Trout for the Art Gallery

*In and Around Paint Branch,
cont'd*

**SUMMER CONCERT AT PBUUC ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**



The **Music at Paint Branch** concert series will be presenting a summer concert on Sunday, August 17 at 4 pm featuring the Japanese ensemble, *Trio Sakura*. The ensemble, consisting of Yoshimi

Kadota, soprano, Makiko Taguchi, violinist, and Naoko Maeda, pianist, will present a program of solo, duet, and trio music of Handel, Brahms, Strauss, Fauré, Gershwin, and Ennio Morricone. They will also delight the audience with songs from their native Japan. *Trio Sakura* first performed in the *Music at Paint Branch* series in December of 2006 with a Christmas concert and carol sing in English and Japanese.

Pianist Naoko Maeda has extensive experience as a pianist in Japan and the U.S. She was a top graduate of the Musashino Music University in Tokyo, has given solo recitals at St. Colomba's Episcopal Church, the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, and other locations in the DC area, and accompanied professional musicians and choruses. Soprano Yoshimi Kadota studied at the Kunitachi Music University in Tokyo and joined the Nikikai Opera upon graduation. In the U.S., her performances have included a recital at the Corcoran Gallery and performances with the New York City Symphony Orchestra

All concerts on the *Music at Paint Branch* series are free to the public, with donations appreciated. Any parents with children who study violin or piano should make sure they plan to attend this special event. This is an invaluable experience in the development of our young artists-to-be, especially when presented in our own Meeting House.

Please note, this concert will *not* be followed by a reception, at the request of the artists.

**Your
Article**

Could

Appear

Here!

**Contact the Church Office
For more information about how
To contribute Articles to
Branches, our monthly
Newsletter.**

**Deadline for September is
August 17th**

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* Our interm ministers will arrive on August 15th
 For pastoral emergencies occurring during August 1st and 15th and fall outside the church office's normal business hours, we ask that you contact a Pastoral Care Associate.

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FOR OCTOBER – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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