



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

MAY 2009

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE – all 10:00 am

Followed by Coffee Time and then *Enrichment Hour* – small group programs 11:45 am – 12:45 pm, except as noted

MAY 3 OWNING OUR POWER: STORIES OF SELF, US AND NOW

Rev. Diane Teichert, *Candidating Minister*, with Tish Hall, *Worship Associate*, and the PBUUC Choir

The great first century rabbi Hillel asked three questions. “If I am not for myself, who am I? When I am (only) for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” From him we learn that leadership is rooted in a sense of self, enacted in relationship with others, and realized through actions in the world that meet the world's greatest needs. Let us ponder the meanings of these things for us this day.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT 11:45 PM TO VOTE TO CALL TO REV. TEICHERT

MAY 10 OUR MOTHER, THE EARTH

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, *Co-minister*, with Marilyn Pearl, *Worship Associate*
Child Dedication Service

The Earth is our mother; we must take care of her. This Mother's Day, we speak of the mother of all of us. She has given us much. It is our turn now.

MAY 17 A SAVING FAITH (BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY)

Revs. Phyllis Hubbell and John Manwell, *Co-ministers*, with Tosha O'Neal, *Worship Associate*,
and the PBUUC Choir

(Everyone is invited to gather at 9:45 for a lively hymn sing.)

You may not see it, but we often see or hear of newcomers sitting in the back of the church, with tissues pressed to their eyes. They often exit as quietly as possible, not wanting anyone to see they've been crying. But something holy has happened here for them, something life-changing, even life saving, that they had given up hope of ever finding. This morning, we take up the challenge of Auction winner Tim Illig to offer a service on the good news about our UU faith. We hope you will invite your friends to this special service.

MAY 24 UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, District Executive, Joseph Priestley District,
with Erin Washburn, *Worship Associate*

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is the ideal church for the 21st century. Surveys have shown that over 500,000 people claim to be Unitarian Universalists by belief, but our membership numbers have yet to exceed 200,000 adults. Rev. Speck will bring a message of hope for the future as well as challenges for the members of Paint Branch. Do we really want to grow as a church? What would we do if our membership doubled? How are we in partnership with the larger Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations? What is our imperative as we enter a new settled ministry? These and other provocative questions will be addressed this Sunday.

MAY 31 WHEEL OF THE YEAR

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, *Co-minister*, and Carla Miller, *Director of Religious Exploration*,
with Don Henderson and Tish Hall, *Worship Associates*, and the Chalice Dancers
Featuring *Seasons of Love* from Rent sung by some wonderful youth soloists
(Middle school and High School Youth go to service today; all other grades go to class.)

This service acknowledges the many transitions we face as we move through the wheel of life. As we do each year, members are invited to share the important passages of their lives during this past year and celebrate them in ritual.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Monthly Ministers' Article: Roots and Wings

As you read these words, if all goes well, you will be looking ahead, with enthusiasm, toward the years ahead with your new settled minister. It may, then, be a moment for reflecting on the meaning of ministry.

“Ministry,” wrote Gordon McKeeman, one of our most loved and respected long-time ministers, “is all that we do – together.” Our late colleague Robert Karnan observed that ministry “is not something reserved for only one ordained and robed. It is something we all do for and with one another.”

Nowhere is that more true than at Paint Branch, with its tradition of strong and proud lay leadership. Here the ordained minister, and indeed the elected lay leadership, are expected to lead by example and inspiration, perhaps by persuasion and passion, but not by fiat. It is a collaborative ministry, in which we are all colleagues whether we are ordained or not.

It can be tempting at a time like this not just to rejoice, but to assume with a sigh of relief that we can now relax and look to that new settled minister to take over. At such a time, we need more than ever to remember that ministry is what all of us do, together.

When Phyllis and I first met with your Board, last June, we shared a story made popular by the late Scott Peck, the story of the “Rabbi’s Gift.” It’s about a dying monastery in medieval Europe. Its elderly abbot went to see the old rabbi who came on retreat to a hut in the woods nearby, to ask his advice to save his dwindling order. They lamented and prayed together and read Torah, but in the end the rabbi said he had no advice. But he added a cryptic thought: “The messiah,” he said, “is among you.”

On the abbot’s return, the little band of monks began to ponder these words. They became more attentive to each other, on the off chance that one of them might be the messiah. In time, visitors who came to picnic on the monastery’s grounds began to sense this new aura of respect. They came back, and

brought their friends. They talked with the old monks – and first one, and then another of the visitors decided to join them. It was not long before the monastery was once again a thriving order.

This has become for me a parable of healthy community and growth. We prosper when we learn to respect and trust each other, that we might recognize our differing gifts and appreciate all of us as needed in the service of a vision we share. None of us is the messiah who alone will save us – yet we are all messiahs. We will have a future only as we shape it, together.

Bob Karnan went on to say that “a minister seeks to help us raise up the vision of where we must go as a people, and invites us if we need the invitation to join hands and hearts with one another to get there.”

It is our prayer for Paint Branch, if you decide to call Diane Teichert as your settled minister and she accepts your call, that you and she together will raise up an exciting vision of the ministry you want to do together and join hands and hearts to get there. As you do, you will have an exciting and challenging future, and your life together will be a blessing both to you and to the community around you. May it be so.

Rev. John Manwell, Co-minister

HELP US BID FAREWELL TO OUR INTERIM CO-MINISTERS



On Sunday, June 7, please join us immediately after the service for a short celebration to say farewell to our Interim Co-ministers, **John Manwell** and **Phyllis Hubbell**, who will be very much missed. Cake will be served. If you would like to say a few words of appreciation at this farewell event, please contact Transition Team members **Sherry Mitchell** at donaldandsherry@verizon.net or 301-776-2359, or **Julie Dahmer** at jcdahmer@comcast.net or 301-890-7807.

SPECIAL" BRING A FRIEND" SUNDAY ON MAY 17

Tim Illig, one of the winners of this year's auction sermon, has asked us to do a joy-filled service sharing the good news of Unitarian Universalism. That service is scheduled for May 17 on the topic of *A Saving Faith*. Tell your friends about this special service and come early. We're going to have a good time.



We're also trying some new things in that service. There will be no manuscript as we try to engage one another more from the heart than from the head. There will be lots of lively music.

*Please note that we are inviting everyone to gather fifteen minutes early, at 9:45, for a lively hymn sing that will prepare us for the high energy service we plan this morning.

We are trying to arrange for all the hymn words to be projected on a large screen. Anyone with experience with Power Point presentations who would be willing to assist with this project, please contact **John Manwell** at jmanwell@uuma.org or 410-391-6272.

So that we can maintain the energy of the service, there will be no oral announcements, so please be sure to have your announcements to **Daniel Everitt** by Wednesday, May 13, at noon so that they can be included in the Bulletin. We will also provide an easel in the Meeting House Lobby for special announcements that day. Those also must get to Daniel by the Wednesday, May 13 noon deadline.

What an appropriate service to have as we near the end of this interim year, full of change. We hope most of it has been good. You have certainly welcomed us with warm hearts.

From Our Candidating Minister

Dear Paint Branch Members and Friends,

By time you read this, I hope you and I have already met. If not, I do hope you will attend one of the remaining Candidating Week events!

Please know that you are welcome to participate in any of the gatherings indicated on the schedule as being "hosted" by a group, even if you are not involved with that group's activities.

Also, Festive Friday and the Saturday Potluck are congregation-wide events—please come for the fun of it, whether we've already met or not! And, of course, I look forward to seeing a full house for worship on Sunday, May 3!

By time you read this, Candidating Week will be underway. It is my hope and expectation that it will be a fruitful time of mutual discovery, revealing shared commitments that lead us to believe that we—this imperfect, all-too-human minister and your imperfect, all-too-human congregation—are a best possible "match" for each other.

More so, may there be a deeply joyful sense that we feel called to do ministry together, a ministry in which our individual and collective gifts and passions will meet our own and the world's greatest needs!

With hope,
Diane



Ministerial Search Committee

WELCOME TO OUR CANDIDATE FOR MINISTER!



As I write these words on April 20, the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) is making final plans to welcome our candidate, **Rev. Diane Teichert**, to Paint Branch for Candidating Week. During these eight days, Sunday, April 25 through Sunday, May 3, the MSC has arranged nine separate public events hosted by different groups and open to everyone who wants to meet our candidate. Diane will also preach the services on April 26 and May 3. She is very excited about the prospect of coming here. She knows of our history of social action and social justice work and is looking forward to listening to us and hearing about our hopes and vision for the future of our community.

But Candidating Week is not meant to be a time for strategizing our future; it is a time for the congregation and potential minister to get to know one another. Diane expresses her expectations plainly in a letter to the congregation:

Although I *do* want to hear about all the good that PBUUC does and understand more about how it functions, I am hoping that the conversations we have during Candidating Week will go deeper, from 'doing' to 'being'.

I hope to talk with you along these lines: 'What longings drew you to PBUUC?' and 'How does being a UU at Paint Branch help you become who you are called to be?' and 'How can the greatest joys of PBUUC meet the world's (locally or otherwise) greatest needs?'

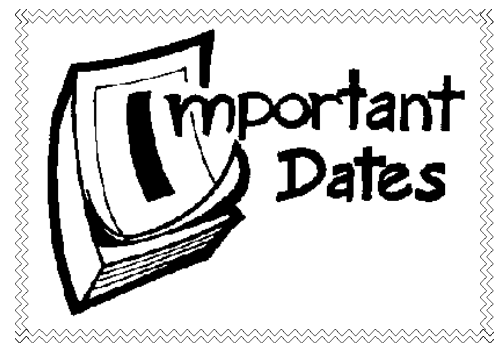
Please plan to spend some time during Candidating Week discovering why we are so impressed with Diane Teichert. Then, after the service on Sunday, May 3, there will be a Congregational Meeting in which we will vote on whether to call this candidate as our next settled minister.

Whatever the outcome of the vote, a significant turnout at this meeting is very important in order to truly determine the will of the congregation. Please plan to be there for the vote or arrange for a member to carry your proxy.

Again, in the words of Diane: "Let's begin our relationship -- congregation and potential minister -- with an open, trusting approach in mutual discovery and exploration together."

The members of the Ministerial Search Committee are: **Bettie Young** (co-chair), **Michael Léger** (co-chair), **John Bartoli**, **Beth Lyons**, **Rene McDonald**, **Muriel Morisey**, and **Marge Owens**. Please don't hesitate to stop one of us and ask for more information about Candidating Week. Look for the big tags with the MSC logo.

John Bartoli



CANDIDATING WEEK EVENTS IN MAY

Here are the remaining opportunities for you to come and meet our ministerial candidate, Rev. Diane Teichert.

Friday, May 1

- 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Walk in the Glen, please contact Lowell Owens at 301-345-1572.
- 6:30 – 9:30 pm – Festive Friday, please call Jim Flaherty at 301-270-6391.

Saturday, May 2

- 12 noon to 2:00 pm – Pot Luck Lunch at Sherry and Don Mitchell's Home. Please call Marcie Washburn at 301-384-5156 for more details.

Sunday, May 3

- 10 am Worship Service
- 11:45 am – Congregational Meeting to Vote to call Rev. Teichert.

From the Board Chair

I am very glad that spring has finally come. The flowers are blooming, my lettuce is coming up in the garden, and I've had to once again go through the process of moving my children's cold weather clothes out of their dressers to make room for the light weight clothes. I'm sure that you have your own set of things that mark the beginning of this new season.

I am now very anxiously awaiting our chance to vote on Rev. Diane Teichert as our next settled minister. I write this after her first of two sermons during her candidating week, and it gladdened my heart to see the huge turnout this Sunday. We all care about our church and want to participate in the process of calling a new minister. Given my experience so far, I am sure this will be a week in which Diane will get to know us and we her.

A new tradition that the Board of Trustees is going to try to add to our already busy schedule is a "calendar event." We have asked the leaders of all of the committees of the church to come together and plan as much as we can of next year's calendar. If we plan this far in advance, it is the Board's hope that we can fit all that we do into a schedule that minimizes overlap. I'm not convinced that is possible, given all that we do. We can, however, make sure that the major events, such as the auction, the holiday parties, and the annual meeting are put on the calendar so that we do not by accident rent a room that we need. The committee leadership can also talk with each other about how they can work on things together; for example, now that we have a publicity committee, the arts council can work with that group to let a wider audience know about our music series and art openings.

I also want to remind everyone that **the Annual Meeting is Sunday, May 31**, after church. We will be doing a separate mailing to the membership to let you know the agenda and give you some materials to read in advance.

Spring also means that my term as board chair is drawing to a close. This year has not been as difficult as many others, and for that I am grateful. I am glad to have had the chance to work with of the people currently on the board, all of whom have given of themselves in work during meetings, liaisoning with committees and other groups, planning events, and all the work of the board. As chair, my role has been made easier by the effort others have extended.

I hope you all have a joyous Beltane!

Kate Brett, Chair, Board of Trustees

Board Treasurer Report:

What a beautiful world we are fortunate enough to live in. I love Spring with the warmer air (I don't like cold), the beautiful flowers and the feeling of renewal everywhere. At church the same feeling abounds. As I write this we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of **Rev. Diane Teichert**, our ministerial candidate. The Ministerial Search Committee has worked hard and long to select the person they believe is best suited to move with us into our future. May it be so!

Financially things are also on the move. The canvass has closed and the BLT (Budget Leadership Team) is working on the budget for next year.

We have not yet reached our canvass goal, not unusual at this time of year. Some of us find it hard to fill in that little card and get it to the church. We have pledges of \$238,282 but we need about \$285,000 to cover both the necessary and creative things we want to do. If you have not yet turned in a pledge, please do so. No need to worry about the yellow card - you can email me at ellencotts@comcast.net with your pledge.

I have also just learned something new - up to now almost no one knew about this. There is yet another way to contribute to PBUUC. It seems we are registered with an organization called Yellow Brick Mall. It is a web portal for on-line shopping. When you order through this portal, vendors donate a percentage of the sale to PBUUC. All you do is go to <http://yellowbrickmall.com/pbuuc.php>. I tried it and, lo and behold, there was a picture of our stained glass chalice, our name and a list of the vendors available with the percentage each would contribute. All you do is click on the name of the vendor you want to use. The list includes Land's End (3%), Birkenstock (6%), Sears (1.2%), Kohls (2.4%), NBC (3%), Best Buy (0.6% to 1.8%) Amazon (2.4% to 3.6%), Ace Hardware (3%), and HP Home and Office (1.2%). The list is endless and includes just about any merchant you would be likely to order from. If you need to buy something and you find it convenient to do it on-line, check out Yellow Brick Mall. There is no need to sign in, no passwords etc. I'll let you know when we receive a donation through them.

So here is your To Do List:

- 1) Send in your pledge, if you have not yet done so, to ellencotts@comcast.net
- 2)) Check out Yellow Brick Mall at yellowbrickmall.com/pbuuc.php.

Cheers to us all in this happy spring.

Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer

Religious Exploration (RE) News

by Carla Miller, DRE

*Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the infinite Universe to you.*
Adapted from the Gaelic

(This is our benediction at the close of each Sunday in our current Web of Life mini-unit.)

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

301-937-3666, x 2

dre@pbuuc.org



UPCOMING in RE

Friday, May 1

- Festive Friday/ Meet the Minister 6 pm

Sunday, May 3

- Boston or Bust! First fundraiser for the Junior High Youth Boston trip next year

Sunday, May 10

- Baby/Child Dedication opportunity during Mother's Day service

Sunday, May 24 -- Memorial Day Weekend

- Full RE classes will be offered!

Saturday, May 30

- Middle School Cluster Fun Day at PBUUC, 4-8 pm

Sunday, May 31

- Middle School and High School Youth attend service

Sunday, June 14 – RE SUNDAY

- All Ages Service, Bridging Ceremony and Teacher Recognition

Sunday, June 22

- Summer Fun Begins

NEXT YEAR'S GROUPS AND CURRICULAR OFFERINGS: A WONDERFUL YEAR AHEAD IN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION!

The 2009-2010 RE year will emphasize our Unitarian Universalist identity and values at all age levels, allowing our young children further opportunities to explore their relationship in the Interconnected Web of Life.



Children's Worship Themes

The theme for Children's Chapel (monthly worship for grades K-5) will be "Living Our Unitarian Universalist Faith each day." Through story and song we will explore situations which are familiar and directly relevant to young children, such as personal space and boundaries, friendship, family relationships, choosing kind words, and conflict management. The ethical choices and moral implications of these situations will be explicitly connected to our Unitarian Universalist principles and to our efforts to live our faith through living in accord with our principles and with one another.

Middle School worship, for grades 6-8, will focus on important current initiatives of our congregation and areas of recent work, learning and growth in our larger UU faith community -- the Welcoming Congregation, Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression, and Green Sanctuary movements. We'll request the involvement of some of our congregational leadership from Social Action, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT), and Green Team to lead these conversations. If you are involved in the leadership of one of these essential movements in our congregation, please say Yes! to convey your passion to our Middle School youth.

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Nursery Childcare

Due to the growing number of adorable little UUs in our nursery, we will divide the nursery childcare into separate infant and toddler groups next year! We currently have six infants in the nursery, with at least two more on the way. Our growing toddler group (ages 2-3) now also has six members, and new families continue to arrive in this age group. Our paid childcare provider, **Kamini Wickamaratne**, will bring her skills to planning activities for the toddler group and engaging them in an enjoyable and nurturing environment. Infant childcare will be staffed by our caring volunteers.

Our Classes For Children And Junior Youth

Primary (Kindergarten – Grade 2) Experiences with the Web of Life

This class will be involved in explorations of the natural world through our very own Paint Branch curriculum, *Experiences with the Web of Life*. The group will engage in outdoor and hands-on learning experiences each week, nurturing the children's awareness and enjoyment of nature, and encouraging their natural sense of wonder and awe. The explicit purpose of this curriculum is to provide the building blocks toward respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Its lessons draw on a variety of sources, emphasizing both scientific observation and spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions that celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. This curriculum was developed by our DRE Emeritus, Marj **Donn**, along with her colleague and successor as DRE, **Abby Crowley**, and **Jean Rashkin**, **Charles Tompkins**, **Penny O'Brien** and me. It was published in 1998 and is widely used in UU congregations across the nation.

Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5) Moral Tales: Celebrating Our Origins in the Universe

The upper elementary age group will begin the year with one of our new curricula from the *Tapestry of Faith* series. The curriculum review team particularly loved this curriculum's stories and activities and is enthusiastic about offering it to our young people!



To learn more about this or any other faith resource, visit our denomination's website at www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml. I encourage all of our members of any age to explore this rich resource!

The following is excerpted and adapted from the online description of this curriculum at the UUA's website.

Every day our children go forth into a complex world where they are often faced with difficult decisions and situations. Moral Tales attempts to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. The first five sessions make up the Seeking Truth/Discernment unit of Moral Tales. These sessions introduce tools for discerning truth and justice in a complex world....The next six sessions constitute the What Would Love Do unit of Moral Tales.

Participants are introduced to spiritual practices that are grounded in love, including generosity, welcome, and nonviolence. The final five sessions introduce tools and attitudes that are necessary to bring goodness and justice into the larger world. Here participants explore responsibility, courage, persistence and cooperation. The aim of Moral Tales is to help raise children who have been provided with tools that will help them to discern what is right and true, to hear and follow the call of Love, and to turn their moral beliefs and ethical concerns into concrete action.

Each session has a central story in which participants meet real and fictional heroes and heroines who have displayed moral courage and spiritual greatness. The stories in Moral Tales draw upon many of our Unitarian Universalist sources, portraying moral dilemmas and paths to goodness and justice through a variety of cultural and religious lenses. Yet every story resonates with Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes, which are intentionally integrated into the sessions. In this way, participants will develop awareness and understanding of other religions as they strengthen their own identity as Unitarian Universalists.

In the spring, this group will explore the mysteries of the Universe and our own connection to all that is, with Celebrating our Origins in the Universe. This curriculum develops children's understanding of our creation story in the "Big Bang" and the process of evolution, through both the scientific and spiritual lenses, deepening the understanding of the connectedness and relationship of all living beings.

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Middle School Group 1 (6th Grade)
Toolbox of Faith and In Our Hands for Grades 4-6

We are fortunate to have a large and fully-engaged group of children in the 6th grade, big enough to form their own class of nine participants next year. They will open the year with a *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum, either the *Toolbox of Faith* curriculum, which our curriculum team recently reviewed and like very much, OR their teachers may choose to field test a brand new resource which is in development and is written specifically for 6th graders, called *Riddle & Mystery*.

Toolbox of Faith participants reflect on the qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage, and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. Each of the 16 sessions uses a tool as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice (a flashlight). This curriculum impressed our team of reviewers with its clever construction, using the concrete tools to illustrate the abstract concepts. However, *Riddle & Mystery*, which explores the "Big Questions of Religion" through engaging activities specifically geared to the sixth grade, also intrigues us, and we'd like to learn more about it for this or future groups!

In the spring, this group will explore social justice and engage in social action involvements through the *In Our Hands* curriculum for grades 4-6.

Middle School 2 (Grades 7-8)
A Unitarian Universalist Year

This group will be engaged in what we're calling a "UU Year", exploring their UU principles, values, history and the biographies of several famous Unitarian Universalists. We will draw on several great Unitarian Universalist curricula, including the new *Coming of Age* Resource Guide, published by the UUA this year, *Travel in Time*, one of our old favorite UU history resources, and *SUUpper Plays*, a collection of Unitarian Universalist skits and plays for youth. Our goal is to engage the class in fun activities that will deepen their understanding of our living tradition and their own personal sense of connection and identity as Unitarian Universalists. The year will culminate with a religious heritage trip to Boston, along with 9th graders who are participating in Coming of Age. Please support our fundraising efforts for the trip!

Coming of Age (grades 8-9)

Our Coming of Age program is a rite of passage from middle school to high school, and from our children's program into our youth group. Next year we will engage our Coming of Age (youth in a series of five workshops focused on UU identity, leadership, spirituality, and beliefs. The workshops will lead youth toward the completion of a personal credo statement. Coming of Age Youth will also be brought into mentoring relationships with adult members of our congregation. Mentors also attend the workshops to engage in religious exploration and conversation with the youth. Mentors and mentees will also meet in pairs to provide more individualized relationships and to assist youth in the development of their credo statement. This group will also engage in service to our congregation and to the community together. The youth will celebrate the completion of their Coming of Age and be recognized and affirmed by the congregation with a special Sunday morning ceremony. And together with the UU year class, the entire group will travel to Boston to explore our religious roots and build bonds of connection that will carry the group through their teen years together at PBUUC.

Adult Leadership for Religious Exploration

Committed adult leadership and participation is essential to our successful program! We are deeply



thankful for all of those who have served the church community in the many volunteer roles in RE this year! We will need many of you to return, and many newcomers to join us, as we move into the coming church year. Please consider volunteering to serve our church community through an involvement in RE. You will find that you learn and grow in your own faith in ways you could never anticipate through your role in teaching our young people.

All interested adults are encouraged to speak to **Carla Miller**, DRE, or **Tina Van Pelt**, RE Committee Chair, for more information and/or to let us know you'd like to get involved! (*continued next page*)

BRINGING IT HOME!



This spring, our Interconnected Web mini-unit offers a wonderful opportunity for families to bring home the lessons of RE and put them to practice in their everyday lives at home! Suggestions for “living green” will be coming home with your children from their RE sessions this spring!

Parents, please take this opportunity to have conversations as a family about what you are doing to live more lightly on the earth, and to choose additional steps that you might take. Please try some of the suggested actions at home with your family and connect our beliefs and learnings with action as we all strive to live in more respectful relationship to this beautiful, amazing planet Earth.

PBUUC RE APPRECIATES...

All of our members and friends who came to the basement clean-out and deck-work day:

James Alexander, Peter Dowling, Kelly, Mary and Abigail Wester, Julie and Bridget Dahmer, Carole and Andrew Valliere, Tish Hall, Liam Brennan, Penny O'Brien, Steve and Zach Bernheisel, Mike Stark, Paul Young, Ron Cotts, Jim and Christian Flaherty, and Al Solomon. and any others we may have inadvertently omitted. Special kudos to **James Alexander and Carole Valliere** for organizing this effort!



Denominational Affairs

Our denomination's General Assembly will be held June 24-28 in Salt Lake City, Utah, where important issues and critical interests, nationally and locally, will be discussed and decided upon. The Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) on Peacemaking is completing its third year of study, and work has already begun on drafting the resulting Statement of Conscience (SOC). More information on the CSAI on Peacemaking can be found on our denomination's website at the following URL: <http://uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/index.shtml>.

The CSAI on Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice, is just completing its first year of study, and decisions on how to proceed on this central question will also be determined. More information on this particular topic can be also be found on the web at : <http://uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/ethicaleating/index.shtml>.

Probably the most serious decision at the GA involves the UUA elections for President, Moderator, and Financial Advisor. Information regarding the elections can be found at: <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/>.

What actions must Paint Branch now take? First, we will appoint our GA delegates. Previously, delegates were appointed based on who planned to go, since this is done at personal expense. As of this writing, **Carol Carter Walker**, my wife **Emma Gaines-Gerson** and I plan on attending GA. We need to know as soon as possible, who else wishes to represent PBUUC as a delegate at the GA and participate in decision making. If interest exceeds our allocated number of delegates (5, plus alternates), then decisions will be made as to who becomes credentialed as a delegate and these individuals will be provided any appropriate information and instructions.

I urge you to visit the UUA website listed above, to learn more about the candidates for these offices, particularly for President. A decision on how we will collect our members' opinions will be announced shortly. Contact me at 240-293-6570 or donaulderson@yahoo.com with your questions, comments, and particularly, your interest in being a delegate at General Assembly.

Donald Gerson, chair

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) News & Events

Toward “Inclusive Excellence”

In April, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) sponsored the “Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future” conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. UUs from all over the country were encouraged to think about diversity in ever-widening circles of inclusion and practice.

Dr. Mark Hicks, faculty consultant at Meadville Lombard Theological School and author of *Building the World We Dream About: A Welcoming Congregation Curriculum on Race and Ethnicity* (which will be available at Paint Branch this Fall), talked about “dancing on the edge of our comfort zones.” He emphasized how cultural norms are shaped by our frames of reference, by our perspectives and habitual ways of thinking and behaving. Mark defined **Transformation** as “a process by which we transform our taken-for-granted frames of reference to make them more inclusive, discriminating, open, emotionally-capable-of-change, and reflective so that they may generate beliefs and opinions that will prove more true or justified to guide action.”



Open-mindedness is basic to transforming and improving institutional culture and allows for greater quality in decision-making. To me, the paradigm shift toward inclusion is more respectful and spiritual than the standard

‘White’ American business-as-usual approach. Mark defined six inter-related multi-culturally inclusive norms for institutions, the first of which will sound very familiar to Paint Branchers. Our former ministers, Barbara and Jaco ten Hove encouraged us away from either-or thinking toward **Both-And Thinking**, which is the foundation for institutional inclusion.

The second characteristic of the new paradigm is the spiritual concept of **Abundance**, an optimistic and appreciative worldview that enhances the possibility for change and welcomes creativity. Abundance contrasts sharply with the anxiety-orientation of rejecting change, focusing on what will be “given up” and dismissing new possibilities in favor of doing things ‘the way we have always done them.’

Third, the new paradigm focuses on **Transparent Communication**, rather than intentional or unintentional secrecy. At Paint Branch we are endeavoring to make processes and procedures, volunteer and staff job descriptions and committee charters transparent.

The fourth principle of inclusion is **Collaboration and Cooperation**. A culture of collaboration, cooperation, and inclusion guards against unilateral decision-making, closed, elitist, or individualistic leadership, a sense of competition and gate-keeping. Collaboration, cooperation and our UU principle promoting respect for interdependence all contradict the American ‘ideals’ of rugged individualism and the promotion of competition. Philosophically, competition includes a belief in scarcity, that winning is everything, that perfection must be achieved, and that some must fail for others to succeed. Speaking only to people with whom we are most familiar and inviting only them into committees, leadership, and social events is a subtle method of limiting inclusion.

A fifth characteristic of inclusive excellence is a focus on **Effectiveness and Faithfulness**. Eschewing a rivalry between Universalism and Unitarianism leads us to move beyond a head orientation to engage the heart, spirit, and emotions, to allow for a ‘big-tent’ approach of caring and love. We need to bring our best selves to the table. Accepting diversity in communication styles helps us understand that comfortable, confident people need to listen and uncomfortable, quiet people need to speak up. Mark recommended saying “Ouch, that hurt” followed by education, and “Oops, I didn’t mean to sound that way” as we increase our awareness and faithfulness to inclusivity. Personal growth needs may range from informative materials to psychotherapy. Courage, compassion, forgiveness, willingness to learn from others and engage in self-examination and process-examination are effective and faithful practices.

Finally, **Outward Focus and Accountable Relationships** promote multicultural norms. We need to hold ourselves and each other accountable when we slip into either/or thinking, a scarcity mentality, secrecy, individualistic action, an inward focus, a bias toward the status quo for the sake of ‘efficiency’ and gate-keeping habits.

The ideals of multi-culturally inclusive institutional norms are embedded in our UU principles. The emphasis on democratic, inclusive practices of acceptance, inclusion, and mutual encouragement of each other’s pursuit of meaning and spiritual growth form the core of our faith. The invitation to enter anti-racism, anti-oppression work through many doors is an ongoing goal of the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team at Paint Branch. Engaging in the transformation is an act of faith.

Tricia Most, Co-Chair

DIVERSITY & ANTI-RACISM DIALOGUES:

Honoring the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person

The next Diversity Dialogues, organized by DARTT, will be held during Enrichment Hour on Sunday May 17, instead of the usual second Sunday. We will resume meeting on Second Sundays on June 14. These monthly sessions provide the opportunity for personal reflection and discussion on issues of diversity and race in our own lives, our communities, our congregation, and our world.



The Diversity Dialogues focus on short articles, essays, speeches or books (to be selected in advance each month) as a starting point for deep conversation. The sessions stand alone and it is not necessary to commit to participate every month. The

May 17 session will focus on the Special Olympics campaign *Spread the Word to End the Word*.

The *Spread the Word to End the Word* campaign was launched March 3, and the goal is to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the R-word (retarded) and encourage people to pledge to stop using it. Americans have been asked to declare their support for more respectful and inclusive language, specifically that referring to those with intellectual disabilities. Links with more information about the campaign and the companion article for this dialogue, *People First Language* by Kathie Snow, may be accessed through the PBUUC website and found in the DARTT section: www.pbuuc.org/socact/dartt

We welcome all to join in as we engage our minds and our hearts in exploring and sharing both the challenges and the opportunities of personal and collective transformation to embrace diversity in all its forms.

Please contact **Cynthia Robinson** at crr@pipeline.com or **Theresa Brown Shute** at 301-455-8418 for more information.

PBUUC THEATER TRIP TO *CROWNS* GREAT FUN AND FUNDRAISER!

Pictured below are some of the 17 Paint Branch Members participated in the DARTT theater party to see the Arena Stage production of *Crowns*, a musical that uses hats as a metaphor for examining perspectives on African-American women. Most of us went to the U Street Busboys and Poets for dinner afterwards. This fundraiser yielded \$207 for the Ysaye Barnwell vocal workshop scheduled for the Fall. Hats off to **Renee Katz** and **Carol Carter Walker** who organized the event.



DARTT TEAM MEETS TUE., MAY 5

Our next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 pm in Room 1 of the Religious Exploration Building. We'll provide input into our portion of the Annual Report, plan a summer service and draft our calendar of activities for the upcoming church year. Come and bring your ideas and energy! If you have questions or want further information, please contact us at dartt@pbuuc.org

*We all should know that
diversity makes for a rich
tapestry, and we must
understand that all the
threads of the tapestry are
equal in value no matter what
their color.*

Maya Angelou

In and Around Paint Branch

PAINT BRANCH'S FIRST SPRING CRAFTS FAIR ON MOTHER'S DAY! Sunday May 10 during Enrichment Hour



I am proud to announce Paint Branch's first Spring Crafts Fair which will be held on the Meeting House Deck immediately after the worship service on Sunday May 10. Tina Van Pelt and I have been working to pull together a good range of artists, crafters, and gardeners. Our Youth Group will provide food.

So far we are looking forward to these fabulous vendors:

- ✓ Fused glass jewelry by **Tina Van Pelt**
- ✓ Photography by **Don Gerson**
- ✓ Knitted specialties from members of our **Handcraft Circle**
- ✓ Scarves, dolls and other fiber arts by **Penney Hughes**
- ✓ Sourdough and hearth-baked breads by **Tish Hall**
- ✓ Eclectic arts by **Kim Stark**
- ✓ Plants from several of **our gardeners**
- ✓ Artwork from the **Artists on the Avenue** co-op in Hyattsville
- ✓ Snacks or light lunch from the **PBUUC Youth Group**



Some examples of Tina Van Pelt's exquisite jewelry

All vendors will donate 20% of their sales income to the church's general fund; some vendors will donate more. This is a great chance to spend responsibly, support local artists and your church, and find something wonderful to give your mom for Mother's Day! Please plan to stay after church for a little while on May 10 and make this first Spring Crafts Fair a success for all.

If you would like to be a vendor, it is not too late to join in. Please contact me at Lbhall@comcast.net or Tina Van Pelt at cvanpeltah@ed.gov for more information.

Tish Hall

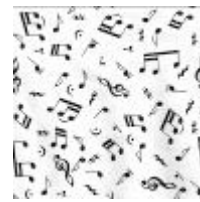
ART AND MUSIC OFFERINGS



The current exhibit of photographs by **Harvey Kupferberg** will remain on display through Sunday May 17. Don't miss taking a close look at these wonderful black and white photographs. If you are inclined to buy one you may contact him at hkupfer@verizon.net or by phone at 301 572-2898. An exhibit of pastels by **Kathy Holzer** will follow Mr. Kupferberg's exhibit.

PBUUC CHOIR CONCERT

To Benefit the Piano Restoration Fund



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 pm** when the PBUUC Choir will perform a benefit concert to help raise funds for much-needed major repairs to our beautiful Mason & Hamlin grand piano. The choir will sing some of its "greatest hits" for this benefit concert, which we have dubbed **The \$21,000 Concert**—the amount we ultimately need to raise.

The choir will perform a concert in lieu of the annual music service this year because Music Director David Chapman feels the choir has reached a level of excellence required to hold a concert, which in turn has created an excellent opportunity to begin the fundraising for the piano repair. It is our hope that work on the piano will be done this summer. *Additional special donations to the Piano Restoration Fund are welcome at the concert.*

Please plan to attend PBUUC's first-ever Choir Concert and enjoy the reception that will follow.

HEATHER BROWN, Coloratura Soprano *Sunday, June 7 – 4:00 pm*

For the final Music at Paint Branch concert of the church year, **Heather Brown**, Coloratura Soprano, will perform a program which will include arias and arts songs of Handel, Mozart, Strauss, Gounod, Debussy, and Lee Hoiby. Ms. Brown will be accompanied by **David Chapman**, pianist.

This not-to-be-missed concert will also feature guest performer **Dick Berg** on clarinet and harpsichord. The PBUUC Arts Council hopes many of you will plan to enjoy this fine, FREE concert. A reception will follow. (As always, donations are appreciated)

Julie Dahmer, Arts Council Chair

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (UUSJ)

Program and Board Meeting

Saturday, May 30, 2009

Program: 9 am-1 pm (registration 8:30 am)

Board Meeting: 1:30pm

Location: Washington Ethical Society

7750 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC

<http://www.ethicalsociety.org/article.php?id=11>

Help your congregation move forward on issues of environmental justice, non-violent communication, group service trips near and far, and more. The program will include presentations and sharing of best practices on these subjects, followed by the UUSJ Board meeting. Everyone is welcome. Bring a brown bag lunch. For further information, or for carpooling, contact: **Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson** at 240-293-6570 or emmagainesgerson@Yahoo.com

Other UUSJ News

New Collaborative Fund

UUSJ Announces the New Collaborative Fund with Grants of \$300. The proceeds from the October 2008 Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala created a new way for UUSJ to meet its goal of increasing the frequency, impact and visibility of UU collaborative efforts in the region.



The UUSJ Collaborative Fund supports programs promoting cooperation to enhance the impact of social justice endeavors among congregations, organizations and individuals. Priority will be giving to collaborative projects

involving two or more UUSJ member congregations or organizations, to promote best practices in areas such as environmental justice and reducing oppression. The UUSJ co-chairs have authority to approve expenditures for a variety of collaborative program expenses. Contact Terrie Barr at terriebarr@comcast.net for information.

Scholarships

UUSJ still had money available to help youth or young adults attend social justice conferences or for

your congregation to hold a youth or young adult social justice conference. To apply for a scholarship to attend a conference send the name of the youth or young adult, the name of their congregation, the conference which the person wishes to attend and its dates and costs and the amount requested and reason for request to CSnively@uusj.org To apply for funds for a conference your congregation is hosting send a brief description of the conference, the dates, your costs, and an amount requested to CSnively@uusj.org

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT GROUP-- ENRICHMENT HOUR SUNDAY JUNE 7

Have you heard the preposterous statement that growing older has its advantage? That life REALLY DOES begin at 40, 50, 60, etc.? Life is a breeze when you are older? Come to the next Women's Empowerment Group and help us discuss THE SATISFACTION AND CHALLENGES OF BECOMING OLDER. Both the young and more mature members of our congregation would benefit from this discussion led by **Louise Sindler**. Join us in the left side of the Kelly Room. Contact **Alice Tyler** at 301-935-5279.

CROP WALK – LAKE ARTEMESIA

Our next Special Collection will be for the Church World Service CROP WALK at 1 pm on May 3 at Lake Artemesia Natural Area Park in College Park, Maryland. CROP WALK provides food to those starving because of world catastrophes, and educates the poor of the world on how to improve their food production. When you provide a hungry man with fish, he eats that day. When you teach a man to fish, his family will eat through the year. Twenty-five percent of our donations support Help by Phone, a local non-profit organization that provides food to families with emergency needs.

Across the United States, 40 million people are classified by the United States Department of Agriculture as “food insecure.” Community pantries are growing empty due to harsh economic times. You can help by donating to CROP WALK. For more information please contact **Esther Nichols**, CROP WALK Coordinator, at 301-864-2068.

Esther Nichols

GREEN TEAM

“It’s not easy being Green.” – Kermit the Frog



First, the good news: Paint Branch has been welcomed as a candidate for the Green Sanctuary Program by the Green Sanctuary Review Team of the UUA. Our application was reviewed with constructive comments about our plans and projects, in a two page letter. We

have been encouraged to add more environmental themes into our worship on a regular basis possibly by adding more songs, readings, candles, or reflections. The UUA Committee added, “We are excited to see that you are planning on including a program on ethical eating in your worship services – this will fulfill a Green Sanctuary Program requirement and get your congregation involved in the Congregational Study Action Issue – Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice for 2008-2012.”

The bad news really isn’t that bad. We need to propose a fourth sustainable living project. Here is where you can help. The three projects we proposed are “well conceived and straightforward” but we need one more. Ideas, please?

The workload becomes lighter as more people work on the committee. The next meeting is during enrichment hour on Sunday, May 10, and if you can spare ten minutes, drop in and learn more about our projects.

Penny O’Brien

SIGN UP NOW TO ATTEND THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT, AUGUST 28-30, 2009 AT HASHAWHA!

Join friends and fellow Paint Branchers at the **All Church Retreat in Westminster, MD**, in the lovely wooded setting of the Hashawha Nature Center.

We will bunk in cabins and engage in activities such as crafts, conversation, nature hikes, stargazing, and campfire songs. The bargain price of \$60 per person covers your bunk in one of the communal cabins, Friday dinner, three meals Saturday, and a Sunday morning breakfast. (Children age 4 and under attend for free!)

In order to get a relatively accurate headcount for our retreat, we need you to register before the end of May. Registrations forms will be available after services in the Meeting House Lobby on May 10 and 17, at the Religious Exploration (RE) registration table. **All forms must be into the RE office by May 24.**

Please fill out a registration form at the table or mail it to Carla’s attention.

The leadership for planning this event is being shared by **Tina Van Pelt, Jim Flaherty, Mike Stark and Carla Miller.** We welcome your involvement and suggestions! We encourage all interested Paint Branchers to attend the Retreat Planning Meeting during an upcoming Enrichment Hour.

Together we will create a fun, intergenerational community-building weekend for all!

UU THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL OFFERS SUMMER COURSES IN DC

Meadville Lombard Theological School offers a course in Religious Humanism this summer in the Washington DC area. The course deals with the history, theology and practice of religious humanism in both the Unitarian and Universalist denominations, prior to their merger in 1961, as well as in Unitarian Universalism today. Topics include the historical development of religious humanism, the theist/humanist controversy, the problems and weaknesses of religious humanism, a theology for a new humanism, and issues related to ministry with and by humanists in UU congregations. The class format will include presentations, classroom discussion, and lectures. Taught by the **Rev. Dr. William R. Murry**, July 13-17. If interested

contact Dr. Murry at 410-757-4248 or

bmurry2@comcast.net

PBUUC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Saturday April 4, 2009, **Tina McCloud, Theresa Myrdon, Edward Pachico and Joan Silver** took the Path to Membership class. Led by **Rev. John Manwell**, Membership Chair **Tim Illig**, Board Vice-Chair **Carol Carter Walker**, long-time member **Lowell Owens**, and Religious Exploration Assistant **Penny Hughes**, the class shared what drew them to Paint Branch. They then learned about the history of Paint Branch and Unitarian Universalism. The day concluded with the class signing the Membership Book and sharing how they might become more connected to PBUUC. The next day, Theresa, Tina, Joan and Edward were joined by recently signed members **Mark Shute and Theresa Brown Shute** for a New Member Recognition Ceremony during the service. Afterwards, the congregation continued the celebration with a reception and cake. Welcome Theresa, Tina, Joan, Edward, Mark and Theresa!

PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

–STAFF–

Co-ministers	Rev. Phyllis Hubbell	301-937-3666
.....	Rev. John Manwell	301-937-3666
Music Director/Pianist....	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Dir. of Rel. Exploration..	Carla N. Miller	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst.....	Penney Hughes	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers.....	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst.	Rebecca Birnie.	301-937-3666
Bookkeeper	Eleanor Coyne .	301-937-3666
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.....	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
.....	Rich O'Brien	301-787-5999
Child Care	Kamini Wickramaratne	301-937-3666

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Vice-Chair	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
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Assistant Secretary	John Sebastian	301-589-6808
Treasurer.....	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473

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.....	John Lagerquist.....	301-864-1745
.....	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
.....	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein (Lead)	301-891-2071
.....	Alice Tyler	301-935-5279

–We Care Coordinator for May–

JERI HOLLOWAY – 301-982-0758

–WORSHIP ASSOCIATES –

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.....	Erin Washburn (Youth Assoc.)	
.....	Don Henderson.....	301-681-4033
.....	Michael Léger (Lead).....	301-982-2986
.....	Tosha O'Neal	301-459-0077
.....	Marilyn Pearl.....	301-805-1218
.....	Pat Tompkins (Lead).....	301-474-3858

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	Carol Carter Walker ..	202-636-8138
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Finance	Don Henderson	301-681-4033
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Public Relations	Theresa Brown Shute..	301-455-8418
Religious Exploration	Penny O'Brien.....	301-586-9005
Social Action	Ethelyn Bishop	301-604-2113

– GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES –

Auction	VACANT	
Beacon House	Nathan Rummel	301-776-8551
Bridge	Ellen Cotts.....	301-572-3983
Canvass	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Chalice Dancers	Jennifer Grant..	240-426-1277
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik ..	301-890-9072
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl... ..	301-805-1218
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield	301-552-4330
Men's Group	John Bartoli	301-441-2516
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter.....	301-982-4520
Religious Quest	Lowell Owens	301-345-1572
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker... ..	301-891-1288
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner	301-890-9072
TWedHUULK	Larry Lates	301-345-6923
Ushers	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Writers' Group	Ann Bolt.....	301-774-1960



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