



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

JUNE 2009

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE – 10:00 am

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

JUNE 7

ODE TO JOY

Revs. Phyllis Hubbell and John Parker Manwell, *Co-ministers*, Shantida, *Worship Associate*, and the PBUUC Choir

Today we present an adaptation of a Bob Fulghum story, accompanied with selections from Beethoven's Ninth. This is the last service Revs. Manwell and Hubbell will be leading in this congregation. Today, they repack their suitcase, and send you their blessing with this special service, calling us to say yes to the challenges, surprises and joy of the unknown future. Come join in this celebration of life.

JUNE 14

CELEBRATING OUR INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Religious Exploration Celebration with Bridging Ceremony and Teacher Appreciation

Carla Miller, *Director of Religious Exploration*, Penney Hughes, *Religious Exploration Assistant*, and Marilyn Pearl, *Worship Associate*

On this Religious Exploration Sunday, we affirm our interdependence with one another in religious community, and with all living beings in the interconnected web of life. We recognize that when we care for the earth, we are also caring for ourselves and for one another. We will also honor our interdependence as a congregation as we recognize our graduating seniors with a Bridging Ceremony, and express our appreciation to our RE Teachers and Youth Advisors.

JUNE 21

THE FEMININE DIVINE: EQUALITY IN ANCIENT TIMES

Shantida, *Worship Associate*

There was a time when women and men both spoke for the Divine and this equality was reflected in the everyday culture of their lives. We will explore some ideas about the Feminine Divine, equality, and how our lives might be different.

JUNE 28

ISRAEL-PALESTINE: A PROGRESSIVE JEW'S DILEMMA

Kay Halpern, *Guest Speaker* and a member of the Worship Associates Team

Kay spoke at our recent Gaza program. She is a Jew who has long felt a disconnect between many of Israel's policies and the values of justice and compassion toward the stranger that are deeply rooted in Jewish tradition. She is an active member of a local synagogue. Kay often feels torn between the two sides in this painful conflict; and tries very hard to listen to both sides, tease fact from fiction, and stand up for what she believes - which sometimes means telling people on both sides things they don't want to hear. Join Kay for a Reverberations session during Enrichment Hour.

Monthly Ministers' Article: Roots and Wings

The clock is ticking. The wheel is turning. It is time to reflect on what we've accomplished this year. Together, did we find the main thing? And keep it the main thing?

But this year was different than other years because of the departure of your ministers, Barbara and Jaco ten Hove, after nine years of sharing your lives. Of course, the ongoing work and mission of the church continued, but the main thing we set out to do this year was to work beside you and reflect back to you what we saw as you prepared for new directions and new ministry.

You have talked openly about the good and not so good times of this congregation. You have recognized that each of us reacts differently to a particular model of ministry and that each of your ministers has had strengths and weaknesses. Just as we did. Just as Diane Teichert will.

You've completed surveys, talked in small groups, attended workshops, all of which provided the Ministerial Search Committee with the information it needed to find a minister who was a good fit for the needs of this particular congregation. Your vote for your new minister has confirmed the Committee's judgment.

You are about to vote on a vision for your future, and the mission you plan to follow in the immediate future.

Behind the scenes, your leadership has been working on organizational structures that will serve you and your new minister better – providing clearer descriptions of the recently enlarged position of church administrator, annual calendaring meetings to avoid scheduling conflicts, gathering mission statements/statements for church committees, and beginning the work of by-laws revision. This work can help avoid some of the frustration and conflicts churches run into at your size because not everyone operates on the same assumptions. This is the “work, common as mud” that left undone, leads to burn out and flare ups.

Although, like Barbara and Jaco, we are also co-ministers, we think we provided three different models of what ministry might be (his, mine, and ours) that might work at Paint Branch. John the introvert, humanist UU Christian, who tears up at the fall of a sparrow; me the passionate Broadway wannabe, mystical theist, who wants to change the world. And the two of us together, in love with ministry, in love with this congregation, trying gently to share our truth in that love.

We have lifted up this congregation's vision in word, song, silence and dance. You have changed us. We hope that we have changed some of you.

This last month is a time now for us to start packing our suitcase and saying our goodbyes. Before it ends, we hope that we, too, will know where we will be “this time next year.” If it is with another congregation, we know that we will bring all we have learned in this, our first interim year. If it is a “sabbatical” year, we will cherish the time with family, friends, garden and books.

It is a time of endings. It is a time of beginnings. May they bless us all.



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.

From the Board Chair

This has been a very busy month for our congregation. We met in early May to discuss and then call Diane Teichert as our next settled minister. By the time you read this article, we will also have had our annual meeting to do our normal yearly work, such as elect our incoming Board members, discuss the coming year's budget, and thank all of the volunteers for their work.

Our DRE has announced her resignation this month and we have a team of volunteers working hard to decide how to fill that vacancy. Based on discussions with Diane Teichert, Carla Miller, and JPD staff, we have decided to hire an interim DRE, who would both run the RE program for a year or two, and evaluate what we do and how we do it, in order to improve the program. Now that we have had a good experience with the Interim Ministry Program, I have high hopes for what we could learn from an interim DRE.

The business of the church takes a great deal of time and effort. As this is the last of the Branches articles that I will be writing as your Board Chair before the end of my term in June, I want to personally thank all of the other Board members for their commitment, time, and effort to the work of the church. The Board meetings this year have been used for reviews of many issues, at least in part due to the fact that we were listening to our interim ministers as they evaluated important aspects of our congregational life. We have tried to use this interim year to look at the church critically and identify problems.

It has been my pleasure to serve the church as your Board Chair. I have learned a great deal: about the church, about many of the members I had previously not worked with, and about all that is entailed in running a large organization. I have made mistakes and had to deal with the consequences of additional work to fix them. On the whole, however, I found my experience on the Board to be rewarding, challenging, and a learning experience. I hope you will think about saying yes when someone asks you to participate to help run our church in some way, big or small. If we all take on a little of the work, we will not burn out volunteers who have to do more than they are able or willing.

In peace,

Kate Brett, Chair, Board of Trustees

Church Office Corner

I'm very excited about our most recent success, in collaboration with the ministerial staff, church leadership and major event planners – our very first annual calendar planning meeting, which was held on May 16.

In a desire to have a unified, accurate and comprehensive calendar, and to give priority to all church programming and events, the church office sent letters to all those involved with programming and events in our congregation, requesting that they plan, to the best of their ability, dates, times and room locations for their 2009-2010 events. Approximately 35 groups responded with their requests, an impressive number. Requests were combined into a draft working calendar that was brought to the May 16th meeting, co facilitated by **Daniel Everitt** and **Carol Carter Walker**. Also attending were **James Alexander, Ethelyn Bishop, Ann Bolt, Julie Dahmer, Tish Hall, Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, Tim Illig, Tricia Most, Marilyn Pearl** and **Mary Rooker** (who are all generously thanked for taking time from their weekend to attend).

The result of this three hour meeting was an appreciation of and commitment to annual planning, a clearer understanding of how events are prioritized (with church programming and events always given a priority over outside groups and commercial rentals at this planning meeting), and a web calendar that will now include all events, inclusive of Enrichment Hour activities and off-site events that are of congregational importance, as well as more detailed event information. The church office has committed to update the web calendar daily and to have all 2009-2010 events on the web calendar by June 5. The congregational calendar will be a useful way to keep in touch with all church happenings, and be an effective planning tool for any events your group or committee might be developing. After June 5, we urge you to visit our web calendar at www.pbuuc.org and click on the calendar link. Each date will show events by time and location. Clicking on any event will bring up a page providing more event and contact information.. Once you've visited, let us know what you think, or of any errors or omissions you find, as the web calendar is always a work in progress. Once again, thanks to all, who helped to make this meeting and calendar a better tool for all of us.

Daniel Everitt, Church Administrator

Ministerial Search Committee

WELCOME OUR NEW MINISTER!



The ministerial search is over. Candidating Week was filled with meetings, lunches, dinners, and walks in the Glen. Our candidate summed up everything she had heard from everyone she had interacted with all week long in a wonderful, heart-felt sermon that convinced many people she was the best fit for Paint Branch. Finally, on Sunday, May 3rd, the congregation called the **Rev. Diane Teichert** as our new minister by a very comfortable and significant majority vote of 147 to 4, or 97%.

Diane will provide us with a type of ministry that we have not had in quite a while. For the last ten years, our congregation has been served by co-ministry, including the most recent and greatly appreciated interim ministry of **Phyllis Hubbell** and **John Manwell**. Just as Diane will be purposefully aware of our needs and wishes for the future, so will we need to be aware of this distinct nature of her new ministry at Paint Branch. It will indeed be an exciting time!

The Ministerial Search Committee is extremely happy with our final selection and very pleased that the congregation endorsed our choice with such an overwhelmingly positive vote. We are ready for what we believe to be a well-deserved respite from serious church matters, at least for the summer. We want to be able to speak openly to our friends and spouses! We want to not have to meet every Monday night! We want to have fun and just enjoy Paint Branch!

We appreciate all the wonderful expressions of thanks you have given us in the time since Candidating Week. We would like to thank the Board of Trustees, all the groups, committees, and individuals who took responsibility for holding all the many gatherings that made the week such a success. We would also like to remind everyone that, without the help and support of our own individual partners, we would not have survived. At least we would not have survived with our sanity intact!

Throughout the search, we used a poem by Kathy Fuson Hurt called *The Only Way Out is Through* as our mantra. Towards the end of this poem, the speaker asks how long it will take to get through this difficult task. Here's the answer:

As long as it takes to get us there.

Going down to go up.

Approaching heaven via hell. No other way.

The only way out is through.

And we hereby declare this search to be through!

The members of the Ministerial Search Committee have been: **Bettie Young** (co-chair), **Michael Léger** (co-chair), **John Bartoli**, **Beth Lyons**, **Rene McDonald**, **Muriel Morisey**, **Tricia Most**, and **Marge Owens**.

John Bartoli

A Letter from our New Minister

May 20, 2009

Dear Paint Branch Members and Friends,

As I write, two and a half weeks have passed since the end of my Candidating Week with you, but I still feel the joy I experienced as I stood with members of my family in the Meeting House to accept your call to be your next settled minister!

For me, as the week progressed, I felt an increasing desire to be your minister, a cumulative effect of our planned gatherings and spontaneous conversations with many of you. So, our good feelings about each other were mutual, a very good way to begin indeed.

My deep appreciation, from the bottom of my heart, goes out to the members of the Ministerial Search Committee for their careful planning, thoughtful presence at every event, and unequivocal support before and during the week. I know that theirs was a labor of love and it speaks highly of the congregation.

Also, many thanks to the staff for welcoming me, helping me, and each doing their part (and more!) to make the week go well. I look forward to working with them all, and am sorry that Carla will be leaving this summer. I believe the plan to hire a trained Interim Director of Religious Education is a sound one.

On a personal note, my husband Don Milton and I have decided to rent a house for the first year rather than buy. We expect to move on or before July 15th and I will be in the office on Monday, August 3rd. Things are falling into place for us, and we are grateful.

I hope you each have a healthy and enjoyable June and July.

With excitement and hope,
Diane



Board Treasurer Report:

The fiscal year is winding down even as we look forward to next year with the anticipation of new beginnings. So far this year the finances of the church are going well, although I do know of several large bills that will be coming in before the end of the fiscal year -- the ministers are going to General Assembly, we will be renting a Bobcat to grade the parking lot in June, and there are more pension contributions to be paid. The budget anticipates a deficit for the year of \$5,000, but I am hopeful that the final numbers will be somewhat better.



If there is a deficit, it will reduce our Reserves. If there is a surplus (possible but unlikely), it will increase our Reserves. Reserves currently stand at \$18,000 which is a rather small cushion, given the size of our programs and our property.

Nevertheless, it is an impressive sum given the costs of the fire, the expenses of the search etc. Note: the \$18,000 is in addition to specific amounts set aside for Long Term Maintenance, the Piano Restoration Fund, etc.

I would describe PBUUC as a congregation where most members believe that we should live our values in the real world, and they support our programs with as much money as they possibly can. Huzzah!

In early June you will receive a letter from the office telling you about your pledge for this fiscal year which ends June 30, 2009. One page will show the amount you pledged, the amount you have paid (up to the date of the letter) and the "variance" which is the difference between the two. A second page will show the detailed record of your contributions, including your pledge and other non-pledged but deductible contributions such as to the Legacy Fund. I hasten to reiterate that your pledge is not a legal obligation. Nevertheless, we hope you will take this opportunity to pay your pledge in full before the end of June.

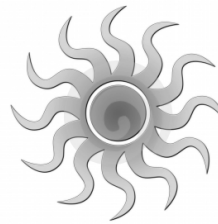
If you don't agree with the record of your payments, please call me at 301-572-3983 so that we can find the problem. Considerable work has gone into making these records accurate and we want to find any glitches that still occur. In the past these records were not always correct, but Rebecca Birnie, our wonderful Administrative Assistant, has worked very hard to understand the database and get it working properly. Please help out by reporting any errors you find.

At this time of year many people are paying off their current pledge and others are getting started on their pledge for next year (July 2009 - June 2010) You will help me keep it straight if you put the year in the memo line, either Pledge '08-'09 or Pledge '09-'10.

As I write this, the Budget Leadership Team is still struggling with the budget for next year. There are several unknowns that make it difficult to come up with a final budget. Personnel changes in both the ministry and the DRE position may necessitate a significant change in insurance costs, etc. A draft budget will be presented at the Congregational Annual Meeting on May 31 but the final budget will not be approved by the Board until June. I'll give you a summary of the final numbers when they are known. If you need specific numbers for your committee, just send me an email later in the summer.

Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer

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!)

Applications will still be accepted through the summer, although space is limited. Please check the Meeting House Lobby for applications.

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!

Religious Exploration (RE) News**by Carla Miller, DRE****OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

301-937-3666, x 2

dre@pbuuc.org**UPCOMING in RE****Sunday, June 14 – RE SUNDAY**

- All Ages Service, Bridging Ceremony and Teacher Recognition

Sunday, June 22

- Summer Fun Begins

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**“This is how change happens, though.**

**It is a relay race, and we’re very conscious of that, that our job really is to do our part of the race,**

**and then we pass it on, and then someone picks it up, and it keeps going.**

**And that is how it is. And we can do this, as a planet, with the consciousness that we may not get it, you know, today, but there’s always a tomorrow.**

**(Alice Walker, in an interview broadcast on Nov. 11, 2008)**

**PASSING THE BATON in PBUUC RE**

**A**lice Walker’s words certainly ring true for our church community, as we find ourselves so often passing on and picking up batons. “And it keeps going.” This liberal religious community and its search for truth and meaning keep going, too!

Our shared journey brings us together in mutual support, whether we are at this moment a runner or observer, whether we are currently running full-speed ahead, “recovering from or preparing for the run.” Whatever role we play now, have played or will play, we are all important on this relay team.

Every year at this time we close one leg of this journey in our Religious Exploration Ministry to Children and Youth. We are thrilled to keep some proven teachers/runners on our relay team striding confidently into another year!

We will also gladly welcome many new runners, ready with open hands to grasp the baton. Some of you who have completed your time as teachers and parents may move to RE Committee seats.

Is this the year *you* will take your turn with the baton of teaching and learning in Religious Exploration?

As you decide, remember that this is a relay, and not a marathon! You will teach approximately two Sundays of each month, leading the class for only one of those sessions. You will join a supportive team of teachers who offer encouragement and camaraderie. You’ll be given a wonderful curriculum full of great ideas for engaging everyone in a meaningful experience of religious exploration for the whole class, including yourself! Your group of young people will teach you more than you can begin to imagine, just by being their own unique and wonderful selves and sharing openly of their thoughts and feelings with you and one another in this special, safe setting we provide.

And of course, the entire congregation is cheering your efforts from the sidelines!

Running a good race as a teacher or advisor in Religious Exploration takes your best efforts and can get tiring. But it may also bring the occasional exhilaration of a runner’s high as you learn and grow more spiritually fit and form new relationships within this religious community.

How and when will you do *your* part of the race?



**PASSING THE DRE BATON:  
Saying goodbye to this role at PBUUC,  
though not to all of you!**

**“This is how change happens, though.”**

Staffing changes are happening lately at PBUUC: **Rev. Phyllis Hubbell** and **Rev. John Manwell**, our interim co-ministry team, will pass the baton to **Rev. Diane Teichert**. I will soon be leaving the position of DRE to take an exciting new position and continue my growth as a religious education professional. I will join the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, as their Director of Lifespan Growth and Learning.

*(article continues on next page)*

I look forward to this opportunity to serve in the field of liberal religious education as a full-time professional. I am also truly hopeful that this change will be “both/and” -- a healthy growth experience for *both* myself *and* this wonderful religious exploration program. I am sure that this change will be an experience of growth, and we can work together to make it so.

***“It is a relay race, and we’re very conscious of that, that our job really is to do our part of the race.”***

I have done my job, of course. And, I truly hope that I have done all that was needed for my part of the race. Right now, I’m puffing to the finish line, sweating profusely, and I’m growing increasingly aware of nearing the finish line. Scenes from my time at Paint Branch flash through my mind: memories of holiday pageants and RE Sundays, baby dedications and bridging ceremonies, OWL parent orientations and nursery parent consultations, teacher orientations, Middle School Cluster gatherings, staff gatherings at the ten Hove’s home, and that precious moment in Children’s Chapel when a small hand releases the smooth stones into the community bowl of water sharing a joy or a sorrow from their own life.

My work here at Paint Branch has brought me more joy and personal growth than I could have imagined! I am proud of *our* accomplishments -- mine and those of the RE leadership -- *and* of this community’s incredible joint accomplishment of rebuilding this program out of the ashes of the fire. Of course, my work here has included its share of mistakes and challenges, too. We couldn’t be creatively living and growing without making mistakes!

I have tried to give you my very best. I hope that my work has positively supported this religious exploration program and allowed it to play an important part in many of your lives, as it has in mine.

***“...and then we pass it on, and then someone picks it up...”***

How and when will I pass this on, and who will pick up the baton of DRE? I will be with PBUUC until the end of July, and I will take this time to put things in order for the next person who comes in to do this job. Who that will be we do not know for sure, but as I write this a small group prepares for the search. **Tina Van Pelt** and **Kelly Wester** are doing the groundwork to explore the possibility of an Interim DRE.

The DRE Interim Program is modeled on a ministerial internship. It provides the congregation an opportunity for evaluation and visioning in RE, creating a smooth and well-supported transition, and building a foundation upon which the next settled religious education professional may build. This process would also help to allow Diane a year to settle in, and give her an opportunity to have a say in the process of seeking the next settled DRE. Or, Paint Branch may choose to search for another settled DRE as my replacement and to form a full DRE Search Committee.

While the transition process for Paint Branch RE leadership is not yet clear to me, I’m sure that by the time you are reading this it will have been decided. And whatever choice is made, it has been heartening to see this congregation move so quickly into gathering the information needed to make a well informed decision about this transition! It seems to me that we are learning from our many recent transitions and beginning to handle change more effectively! This will make this transition smoother for the congregation and for the next person in the door.

***“...and it keeps going.”***

I have no doubt that Paint Branch’s Religious Exploration ministry will keep going and growing, for people of all ages. As the church transitions to a new ministry, there is a great deal of potential for growth -- growth of spirit, of outreach to the community, and of organizational structure to support a flourishing RE program -- all of which will lead to growth in numbers.

May we continue the Mission and Ministry of Paint Branch’s Lifespan Religious Exploration: strengthening spirits, encouraging ethical actions, and creating a caring community. This work is so needed in our world today!

***“And that is how it is.”***

I feel truly blessed to be able to stay on at Paint Branch as a member of this wonderful congregation! My children and husband will continue to attend and enjoy this warm, creative, and energetic community each Sunday. I will not be present on most Sunday mornings, particularly in the coming year. But I will look to this wonderful community for continued friendship, support and inspiration in years to come.

*Carla Miller*

*(more RE News on next page)*

**PBUUC RE Appreciates.....**

All of our Teachers, Youth Advisors and Volunteers!!

**Nursery Volunteers:**

- Karen Donovan, Theresa Meeks, Deb Rubenstein, Alice Tyler, Marcie Washburn, Adeline Wilcox

**Preschool Teachers:**

- Eric Most, Patricia Most, Evangeline Wells, Theresa Brown Shute

**Primary Grades Teachers:**

- Patty Daukantas, Jan Montville, John Sebastian

**Upper Elementary Teachers:**

- Steven Bernheisel, Kevin Miller, Noel Monardes

**Middle School Teachers:**

- Cory Carter, Mark Cornick, and Ebeth Porter

**Junior High OWL Teachers:**

- Michael Stark, Tina Van Pelt

**Senior High OWL Teachers:**

- Peter Dowling, Tish Hall

**Youth Advisors:**

- Celeste Hall, Mike McMenamin, Paul Wester

**Parent helpers & substitute teachers:**

- Joe Dever, Tina Van Pelt, Jim Flaherty, Joan Silver, Dana Thomas, Kelly Wester, Adeline Wilcox

**Snack Helpers:**

- Carol Boston, Sarah Michailof, Ken Redd,

**Web of Life Special Spring Unit leaders:**

- Steven Bernheisel, Cory Carter, Patty Daukantas, Alan Hedin, Becky Hedin, Lisa Lincoln, Kevin Miller, Noel Monardes, Diane Niedzialkowski, Ebeth Porter, Jennifer Robinson, John Sebastian

**RE Committee Members:**

- Tina Van Pelt ( Chair), Penney Hughes (Secretary) Sarah Michailof, Carla Monardes, Nathan Rummel, Michael Stark, Carole Valliere

**\*\* With many special thanks to our indispensable RE Assistant Penney Hughes**, for all her good energy for teacher support, volunteer recruitment, Youth Advisory Committee organization and thoughtful planning for the Web curriculum!

**\*\* And true gratitude to Kamini Wickramaratne, childcare provider, and Gretchen Skovron**, for occasional childcare supervision, and **Liam Brennan and Alex Ahearn** for assistance,

**\*\*And anyone else who has given of their time and talent in Religious Exploration and whose name may have been inadvertently omitted!**

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

**BRAGGING IS IN ORDER!**

The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) is approaching its second birthday. It's a good time to look back before going forward to take note of our accomplishments.



At its June 2007 Annual Meeting, the Congregation voted to make anti-racism its major social justice initiative for the year. In August 2007, **Marge**

**Owens**, Social Action Chair (SAC) and **Jaco ten Hove**, Co-minister, convened the first meeting of DARTT. **Leo Jones** was its first Chair. In September 2007 the Board sent a letter in support of the initiative to the entire congregation. **Tricia Most** and **Carol Carter Walker** became DARTT co-chairs in early 2008. The Board approved DARTT's charter as a separate committee in March 2008.

DARTT and SAC co-sponsored a book reading/discussion of *Sundown Towns* by author James Loewen. **Mike Stark** led an Enrichment Hour book discussion group based on Charles Barkley's *Who's Afraid of a Large, Black Man?*

DARTT formed two six-week covenant groups led by **Tricia Most** and **Evangeline Wells** which created a safe space for a diverse group of members and friends to talk candidly about their experiences at the church. **John Bartoli** and **Carol Carter Walker** led a 9-week discussion group, based on *Soul Work*. DARTT sponsored a theater trip to *The Women of Brewster Place*. **Leo Jones, Barbara Wells ten Hove, Tricia Most, Carol Carter Walker, Marj Donn and Judy 'Shannon' Grady** facilitated a series of Journey Toward Wholeness (JTW) Film Festival sessions.

DARTT and SAC co-sponsored Voter Registrar Volunteer training conducted by the Prince George's County NAACP Chapter.

*(article continued on next page)*



Thirteen PBUUCers were certified by the State of Maryland. DARTT members also prepared a summer service, Gathering Around The Chalice, which included **Emma Gaines-Gerson, Muriel Morisey, Tricia Most, Bob Rand, Carol Carter Walker, Peter Wathen-Dunn** and **Bruce Baker** as the skillful Worship Associate. The service attracted a large number of PBUUCers to Reverberations afterwards. **Muriel Morisey's** idea informed the October Ethnic Dinner, with a 'bring a dish, bring a story' theme as an acknowledgement/celebration of Paint Branch's diversity.

Two other summer services resonated with multi-cultural themes. The Interim Co-ministers called on DARTT members to provide readings and other contributions in several worship services throughout the year.

In October, DARTT hosted a continental breakfast for Suitland Center for the Visual and Performing Arts School students, their families and friends before they participated in our annual Education Sunday Service.

In January 2009, 10 DARTT members filled a table at an annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Breakfast Program, sponsored by the Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, with keynote speaker Marian Wright Edelman.

In February, DARTT began a new initiative, Diversity Dialogues, an Enrichment Hour drop-in discussion on race and ethnicity facilitated by **Theresa Brown Shute** and **Cynthia Robinson**. Also in February, DARTT hosted Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison Reed and a discussion of his book, *In Between*, for about 70 attendees. In April, **Renee Katz** and **Carol Carter Walker** organized a theater party to see *Crowns*.

In late May, DARTT was notified that it had received a \$500 Legacy Fund grant to help make the Fall 2009 Ysaye Barnwell Vocal Workshop affordable. All of our events have been publicized by our DARTT webmaster, **Bob Rand**.

DARTT has been active denominationally, with **Tricia Most** serving on the Journey Toward Wholeness Committee of the Joseph Priestley District (JPD). Tricia and Carol have attended the annual Racial Justice Conferences of the UUA and JPD. They plan to attend the JPD Anti-Racism/Diversity Retreat in early June.

*Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair*

## PARTNERSHIP FOR RENEWAL IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL MARYLAND (PRISCM) FUNDRAISING BANQUET

**Rev. Cynthia Snavelly**, Minister, Goodloe Memorial UU Church, was recently installed as Secretary, PRISCM. She has invited Paint Branch to share a table at the annual PRISCM Banquet, their annual fundraiser.

PRISCM is an affiliate of the Gamaliel Foundation, a network of over 60 grassroots, interfaith, interracial, multi-issue organizations, working together to create a more just and more democratic society. The Gamaliel Foundation serves over 1,000,000 people throughout the United States, South Africa, Kenya and Great Britain.

The banquet is Thursday, June 18 at La Fontaine Bleu, 7963 Annapolis Road, Lanham Maryland. There's a reception and opportunity to mingle at 6:00 pm; the banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. We'll be sharing a table with members of Goodloe.

The banquet keynote speaker is the **Right Reverend Eugene Sutton**, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

For tickets or further information, please contact Carol Carter Walker by June 8 at [carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net](mailto:carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net) or (202) 636-8138.

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### DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM (DARTT) MEETS TUESDAY, JUNE 2

All are welcome at the DARTT meeting Tuesday, June 2 at 7:30 pm in Room 1, RE Building. DARTT meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan activities for personal and institutional transformation. This is your opportunity to provide feedback, new energy and new ideas. This meeting will be used to begin planning next year's activities, including a Summer Service, the Ysaye Barnwell Vocal Workshop, select new films, new Diversity Dialogue topics and other initiatives. Contact **Carol Carter Walker** at [carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net](mailto:carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net) or 202-636-8138; or **Tricia Most** at [patricia\\_most@msn.com](mailto:patricia_most@msn.com) or 301 445-2821 for more information. See you!

*(more DARTT news on next page)*

## DIVERSITY DIALOGUES: June 14 during Enrichment Hour

We are excited about the topics that have been covered over the past few months, including articles about **President Obama's** bi-racial status, Attorney General **Eric Holder's** proactive and provocative speech on race, **Mark Morrison Reed's** book on growing up in an interracial family, and the national campaign to respect individuals with disabilities by avoiding negative terms used to describe physical challenges.

Dialogue participants have asked burning questions and shared both challenges and insights on personal and collective awareness and strategies to become more inclusive and accepting and to embrace diversity in its many forms. What might you learn? Join us during Enrichment Hour on second Sundays. The next Diversity Dialogues gathering will be June 14 during Enrichment Hour, starting at 11:45 am

For more information, contact **Theresa Brown Shute** at [tbshute@gmail.com](mailto:tbshute@gmail.com) or **Cynthia Robinson** at [crr@pipeline.com](mailto:crr@pipeline.com).

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**

## PBUUC SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY SAT., JUNE 6



Ready to go?! The next PBUUC clean-up day is scheduled for June 6! Whether you enjoy outdoor garden work, helping to make windows sparkle, or organizing shelves, we've got a project that can use your talents. Please donate some of your precious time, and profit from the benefits of time together with your family and other PBUUC members and friends. Sign-up sheets are available after today's service. Contact **Theresa Brown Shute** at [tbshute@gmail.com](mailto:tbshute@gmail.com) for more information.

## *In and Around Paint Branch*

### A SPECIAL JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> INTER-DEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC AT PAINT BRANCH



Join us from 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm on our spacious Deck (RE Building if it rains) as we welcome others to Paint Branch for this most important of American holidays. We'll celebrate all that is good and beautiful about America, affirm our inter-dependence with all of the world's peoples, our visions for world peace and our care and concern for our planet and its ecosystems.

Co-hosted by our Paint Branch Social Action Committee and the Network of Spiritual Progressives MD Chapter that meets here, we will focus on positive stories, readings, poems, and songs of the progressive American spirit. Please bring yours to share with us, as we celebrate our country's history and on-going work and progress in civil rights, caring for the earth, the labor movement, peace activities, and other important progressive movements.

This will be the fourth year an Inter-Dependence Day July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration is held in our area – and the first time at Paint Branch. For a special and memorable holiday, come with your family and friends to meet and greet others who will be invited from our nearby neighborhood and from groups such as MD United for Peace and Justice, PeaceAction Montgomery, and nearby UU churches.



Food: it's potluck so please bring food to share. If your last name begins with A-L, bring an entrée; M-R, bring a salad; and S-Z, bring a dessert. Also, for sustainability, please bring your own dishes and utensils. We'll provide soft drinks & ice. For more information contact **Nancy Boardman** at 301-982-3450.

*(In and Around News continues next page)*

## MUSIC OFFERINGS

**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)

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### THE PBUUC CHOIR SINGS ITS GREATEST HITS!

*Come to the \$21,000 Concert\**

*Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 pm, Reception to follow*



*That's right—instead of a music service this year we're having a bona fide concert! For several months the choir has been working on a repertoire that includes classical, modern,*

*spiritual, and folk music. If you enjoy the Paint Branch Choir, don't miss this glorious afternoon of music and fellowship!*

\*Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted and will go to the Piano Restoration Fund for urgently needed repairs, estimated at \$21,000.

#### Suggested donations:

**\$21,000 – Mondo-Fortissimo Contributor**

**\$2,100 – Fortissimo Contributor**

**\$210 – Forte Contributor**

**\$21 – Mezzo Forte Contributor**

**\$2.10 – Pianissimo Contributor**

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## SPIRITUALITY CIRCLE

Have you ever lost a friend to the silence? Where did s/he go? Was it something you said or did... or failed to say or do? Have you ever let someone else go in similar fashion? Consider the honesty that this calls for and the healing we can invite. To that end, you are invited to the Spirituality Circle during Enrichment Hour on June 21. For more information, please contact **Vanessa Landau** at 301-742-2084.

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT GROUP ENRICHMENT HOUR, SUN., 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

younger and the more mature members of our congregation would benefit from this discussion led by **Louise Sindler**. Join us in the left side of the Kelley Room, RE Building. Contact **Alice Tyler** at 301-935-5279.

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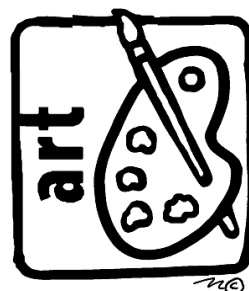
## AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

On Tuesday, June 16, the Prince George's and Montgomery County chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will present their annual meeting/dinner program at PBUUC titled, *Don't Spy on Me: Speaking Up for the First Amendment and Saying No to Police Spying*. The featured speaker is **David Rocah**, lead attorney for the ACLU of Maryland's political spying case against the Maryland State Police. Participating panelists will include activists from among those 53 activists spied upon by the Maryland State Police. Reception begins at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm and FREE program at 7:30 pm. Dinner price is \$25 with advance reservations (RSVP to **Allison Sachs**: [sachs@aclu-md.org](mailto:sachs@aclu-md.org)) and \$30 at the door. Student price - \$15. For more information, please call **Lowell Owens**, Chair of the Prince George's County ACLU Chapter, at 301-345-1572.

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## ART GALLERY NEWS

The current exhibit of watercolors and pastels in the Meeting House is by Kathy Holzer. She is a member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society and lives in



Laurel. She has worked in many different media. These artworks are from various periods in her life. This exhibit will be on display through July 5. You may contact the artist at 301-776-8474 or at [kathyholzer@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyholzer@hotmail.com).

*(In and Around News continues next page)*

## GREEN TEAM



The following information is from **Jennifer Robinson's** notes, taken at the All Souls Unitarian Church Conference on Ethical Investing, which was held in May. The aim was to share the history, principles, and practice of socially responsible investing (SRI) by UU congregations as well as by individuals.

The following websites were suggested by the presenters:

- On SRI  
[www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/reasonsibleinvesting/index/shtm](http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/reasonsibleinvesting/index/shtm)
- SRI's Common Endowment Fund Program  
(<http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/endowmentfund/index.shtml>)
- The site for Social Investment Forum  
[www.socialinvest.org](http://www.socialinvest.org)

As an example of putting theory into practice, All Souls provided a low-carbon footprint lunch buffet featuring local produce. All glassware, ceramic plates, metal utensils and cloth napkins used were reusable and significantly reduced the resulting waste after the meal. **Rev. Louise Green** illustrated how everything is connected, and that there is a need to maintain balance.

**Rev. Phyllis Hubbell** challenged us in her recent sermon, asking "What will you do next week to lessen your impact on the earth?" Turning off lights was one of the easiest ones suggested. Do you have other ideas?

We, the congregation, have shown our commitment to becoming a Green Sanctuary by investing in geothermal climate control. Our next focus must be on sustainable living and economic justice. The Green Team needs your ideas, so please come to the next meeting, Sunday, June 14, and share your ideas. Do you want an all-day workshop, a series of film presentations, readings in Branches? What would work for you?

*Penny O'Brien*

*Editor's Note: Grateful thanks to Penny O'Brien, who has been helping out as copy editor these past few months while Sally LaMar is recuperating.*

## UU THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL OFFERS SUMMER COURSES IN DC

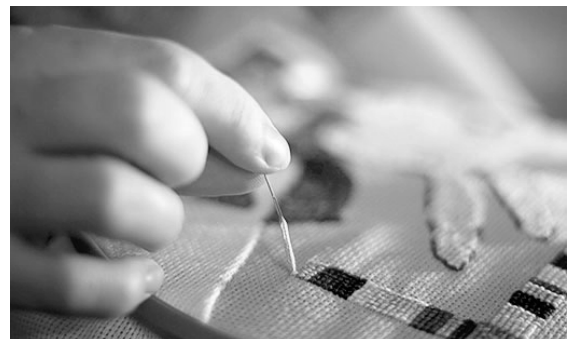
Meadville Lombard Theological School offers a course in Religious Humanism this summer in the Washington DC area. The course deals with the history, theology and practice of religious humanism in both the Unitarian and Universalist denominations, prior to their merger in 1961, as well as in Unitarian 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](mailto:bmurry2@comcast.net).

## THIRD WEDNESDAY HYATSVILLE UU LUNCH CLUB (TWEDHUULK)

TWEDHUULK will be going to the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn, 6323 Greenbelt Road, College Park, MD, at 1 pm. Please contact **Larry Lates** at 301-345-6923 for more information and directions.

## NEEDLEWORK EXHIBIT BEING PLANNED FOR NOV./DEC.

Do you have quilting, embroidery, weaving, macrame or something else made of fabric that you would like to share with other Paint Branchers? It does not have to be for sale. We would like to get an idea of who might be interested in this. Please call or email **Deb Rubenstein** at 301 891-2071 or [hrrs95@gmail.com](mailto:hrrs95@gmail.com) or **Jane Trout** at 301 572-2898 or [jd\\_trout@msn.com](mailto:jd_trout@msn.com).



## 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 |
| Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs: |                      |              |
| .....                      | Chuck Bury           | 301-799-2535 |
| .....                      | Jesse Crowley        | 301-345-2663 |
| Child Care .....           | Kamini Wickramaratne | 301-937-3666 |

### –OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES–

|                           |                            |              |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Chair .....               | Kate Brett .....           | 301-931-9024 |
| Vice-Chair .....          | Jonathan Mawdsley .....    | 301-982-4520 |
| Vice-Chair .....          | Carol Carter Walker .....  | 202-636-8138 |
| Trustee .....             | James Alexander.....       | 301-277-3211 |
| Trustee .....             | Abby Crowley .....         | 301-345-2663 |
| Trustee .....             | Ken Montville.....         | 301-464-8367 |
| Trustee .....             | Diane Niedzialkowski ..... | 301-622-2010 |
| Trustee .....             | Polly Pettit .....         | 301-589-1015 |
| Trustee .....             | Will Snyder .....          | 301-474-1202 |
| Secretary .....           | Anita Wagner .....         | 703-401-7230 |
| Assistant Secretary ..... | John Sebastian .....       | 301-589-6808 |
| Treasurer.....            | Ellen Cotts .....          | 301-572-3983 |
| Assistant Treasurer ..... | Mike Stark .....           | 301-441-2473 |

### –CARING COMMUNITY–

#### PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:

|       |                             |              |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ..... | Carol Boston .....          | 301-585-4183 |
| ..... | 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 June–

**ESTHER NICHOLS – 301-864-2068**

### – BRANCHES –

#### –WORSHIP ASSOCIATES –

|       |                           |                |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------|
| ..... | Erin Washburn             | (Youth Assoc.) |
| ..... | Don Henderson.....        | 301-681-4033   |
| ..... | Michael Léger (Lead)..... | 301-982-2986   |
| ..... | Tish Hall.....            | 301-681-1457   |
| ..... | Tosha O’Neal .....        | 301-459-0077   |
| ..... | Marilyn Pearl.....        | 301-805-1218   |
| ..... | Pat Tompkins (Lead).....  | 301-474-3858   |
| ..... | Shantida.....             | 301-593-0417   |

|                  |                      |              |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Editor .....     | Daniel Everitt ..... | 301-937-3666 |
| Copy Editor..... | Sally La Mar .....   | 301-572-7544 |

### COMMITTEES –

|                        |                        |              |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Adult Rel. Exploration | <i>VACANT</i>          |              |
| Arts Council           | Julie Dahmer ...       | 301-890-7807 |
| Budget Leadership Team | Kate Brett .....       | 301-931-9024 |
| Buildings & Grounds    | James Alexander        | 301-277-3211 |
| DARTT                  | Tricia Most.....       | 301-445-2821 |
|                        | Carol Carter Walker .. | 202-636-8138 |
| DIV Team               | Tim Illig .....        | 410-707-6678 |
| Denominational Affairs | Donald Gerson          | 240-293-6570 |
| Finance                | Don Henderson          | 301-681-4033 |
| Legacy Fund            | Liz Citrin .....       | 410-531-6319 |
| Membership             | Tim Illig .....        | 410-707-6678 |
| Nominating             | Paul Wester .....      | 301-937-7375 |
| Personnel              | Marcie Washburn.....   | 301-384-5156 |
| Public Relations       | Kathy Kearns... ..     | 301-277-5211 |
|                        | 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                    | <i>VACANT</i>            |              |
| 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 |
| Warm Nights                | Kelly Wester ... ..      | 301-937-7375 |
| Writers’ Group             | Ann Bolt.....            | 301-774-1960 |



**PAINT BRANCH**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

**3215 POWDER MILL ROAD**

**ADELPHI, MD 20783-1097.**

**(301) 937-3666**

**WEBSITE: [WWW.PBUUC.ORG](http://WWW.PBUUC.ORG)**

**E-MAIL: [CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG](mailto:CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG)**

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**REVISED Deadlines for next two issues of *Branches***

**July – Thursday, June 18**

**August – Monday, July 20**

**Postmaster: Send Address Changes to Editor, *Branches*, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20873**