

BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

October 2010

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 AM

Families with children are invited to sit in front for a better view.

Everyone is urged to be on time for the gong and prelude.

Nursery care is provided in Room 5 every Sunday from 9:45 to 12:45.

Services are followed by Fellowship and then Enrichment Hour from 11:45 am-12:45 pm.

OCTOBER 3

ON NEIGHBORS

Rev. Diane Teichert with Tish Hall, Worship Associate, and Chalice Dancers

Starting with ancient story of the Good Samaritan, we will ask who are our neighbors, really? This is the last in the sermon series "Unitarian Universalism Today." The Chalice Dancers will perform their 2009 Auction Dance, won by Carol Carter Walker, to "A Change is Gonna Come." A brief installation ceremony will be held for the 2010-2011 Board of Trustees and new Treasurer.

OCTOBER 10

RAINBOW! YOUTH! ALLIANCE!

Stephanie Kreps and Cynthia Thurston with Shantida, Worship Associate, and Choir What is it like for teenagers who "come out" to their parents as "queer" (their term), hoping for support or at least acceptance but face rejection instead? Our guest speakers are adult leaders of the Rainbow Youth Alliance of the UU Church of Rockville, for which our Special Monthly Collection will be taken today, on the day before National Coming Out Day.

OCTOBER 17

FOUNDING FABLES

Rev. Diane Teichert, minister, with Don Mitchell and Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associates
On this very day in 1954 the Sunday service at All Soul's Unitarian Church in DC was transmitted by telephone cable to Building EE at the University of Maryland for the first official gathering of the College Park Unitarians. We've come a long way since then!

OCTOBER 24

HEIGHT, DEPTH, BREADTH

Rev. Diane Teichert, minister, with Abby Crowley, Worship Associate, and Choir Worship that will take Unitarian Universalism into the future will be three dimensional, with more emotion in it than "shaping worth" may suggest, but you'll never be asked to "check your brain at the door." Stay for "Reverberations" after the service, a discussion of the sermon and the recent changes in our Order of Service.

OCTOBER 31 HONORING SAMHAIN: AN ALL AGES CELEBRATION

Rev. Diane Teichert, Interim Director of Religious Exploration Karen Lee Scrivo, and PBUUC members Tabitha Pierzchala and Mary Rooker with John Sebastian, Worship Associate Halloween, All Hollow's Eve, All Souls Day, All Saints Day... it is thought that they all have their roots in the Celtic New Year, a harvest festival, a time to honor the ancestors. Wear your costume!

Visitors are welcomed every Sunday, so please invite a co-worker, the new family on your block, or an old friend.

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The Minister's mUUsings...

n my sermon on September 19, I mentioned a slim volume I've been reading and, in particular, one of its chapters, "Your No is as Sacred as Your Yes." The book has the intriguing title, *Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice*. Wait; don't be scared away from this column because it sounds like it's about being a church volunteer! It's about so much more than that!

It's really about "discernment" which is a practice of deep reflection in which you ask yourself the right questions to guide you in making an important decision. Any kind of decision: what college to attend, where to live, a possible career change or retirement date, whether to marry, whether to have children, how to develop your gifts and interests to help make the world a better place, how to be generous, what to learn, where or who to visit, what exercise and diet is best for you, how to appreciate beauty more often, or (yes!) how to contribute to congregational life here at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. The right questions are self-discovery questions, ones that help you to know yourself as you are at this time: your interests, talents, energy, task preferences, time availability, body type, personality traits, learning goals, etc. and from which answers will emerge.

The author, a UU minister, suggests that there are two kinds of congregational volunteer opportunities: committee work and hands-on tasks. Erik Walker Wikstrom recommends discerning your preference between the two at this time in your life, so you can volunteer accordingly.

Unfortunately, he says, in most churches "these two are conflated" and committee members do both. Instead, he suggests, committees should be doing the envisioning, planning, organizing, and creating the specific tasks that then the hands-on task-doers can do (for which the committee then thanks them). He says that in general 20% of the people in a congregation are drawn to committee work and 80% to carrying out tasks, but that most churches make the mistake of putting doers on committees who then may become impatient with the necessary process-orientation of the planners while the planners end up resenting that they are doing both the planning and the doing. Eventually, it seems like only 20% of the people are doing all of the work, when in fact the other 80% are willing or even eager to help in some way but don't quite see how or why to contribute.

Wikstrom says that lack of clarity about the nature of committee work makes recruitment difficult and burn-out likely. Recently, the chairs of two PBUUC committees (Membership, and Publicity & Outreach) have resigned with a "sacred no" and some others may wish to resign. Rather than be discouraged by this, let us see in it an opportunity to discern what functions are needed and to reconfigure how they are fulfilled. In some cases, a job may be best done by a coordinator or short-term task force rather than by an ongoing committee. I would add that the time commitment should always be explicit.

As with anything in our lives, as much as you love your church, you serve it best when you can serve it with grace. Discern your gifts, likes and availability, and volunteer accordingly. The chapter "No is as Sacred as Yes" ends with a quote from Howard Thurman, "Ask what makes you come alive, and then do that thing. Because what the world needs is people who are alive!" and adds, "The same goes for our congregations."

Looking forward to seeing *you* on Sundays in time to hear our new gong (a gift from Sharon Werth, Artistic Director of the Chalice Dancers) and then the Prelude!

Diane

Notes from the Board Co-Chairs

n exciting new church year is underway, and your elected Board of Trustees has gotten to work. Over Labor Day weekend we held our annual retreat and developed three key goals for the 2010-2011 year. These are:

- 1. Rent some space in the RE building
- 2. Develop a leadership program
- 3. Develop a financial plan through 2015 that will put PBUUC on solid financial ground & enable capital improvements

Let me describe these in a little more detail.

I. Space

Last year, the BOT made the difficult decision not to renew the lease with the Montessori school. It is very exciting to reclaim our space and have classrooms dedicated to RE. Thanks to the hard work of the Move In committee, led by Polly Pettit and Peter Dowling, the rooms are clean and airy, and we're getting the necessary furniture. However, the church's budget is austere this year, in order to be balanced without the Montessori income. Although we want to be less dependent on rental income in the future, we do want to bring in some revenue from the space in the RE building.

To this end, the BOT has reserved the basement of the RE building to be rented 24/7. A "Space Options II" committee has been established and chartered. Its mission is to:

- 1. Determine what improvements need to be made to the Religious Exploration (RE) building to make it more suitable for:
 - a. full time (24/7) rental of the space on the lower level
 - b. Church and Community uses of the rest of the building
- 2. Identify a first renter for the 24/7 rental space and take those steps necessary for the Church to enter into a rental contract with that first renter;
- 3. Make recommendations regarding the most beneficial uses of the RE building and other facilities of the Church by its members, the community and short-term renters.

Carol Carter Walker and John Bartoli have agreed to be part of this committee, but there's still opportunity for others to become involved – give Carol a call if you are interested!

II. Leadership

PBUUC is having difficulty recruiting volunteers. Several committees are without leaders, and as I write this the RE committee is still looking for a few good people to fill the remaining teaching assistant roles. We've heard that one of the reasons people hesitate to step forward is that they're afraid that being the "leader" of a committee will mean that they have to do all the work of that committee. The BOT is committed to developing a stronger cadre of leaders – and participants – so that committee work is really a group effort and new leaders step forward each year to take on responsibilities so that others don't get burned out.

III. Financial plans

The BOT has worried a lot about church finances in the past year. Not renewing the Montessori lease is but one challenge. As we look around, we see the need for many capital improvement – the deck, the parking lot, making the basement of the RE building accessible, making the picnic grove accessible, finishing the basement of the meeting house – you get the picture. All of these things take money. What plans do we need to make any of these improvements possible? Is there enough desire on the part of Paint Branchers to invest in making these things happen? The BOT intends to work with the church membership this year to strengthen our budget and determine what capital improvements to make and how to fund them.

We'd love to get your input about these three goals. Find a Board member, and share your good ideas!

Susanl B Sur

Susannah Schiller, Co-chair, Board of Trustees

Religious Exploration News

THE JOY OF WORSHIPING TOGETHER

hat a joy it's been for me to see our children and youth joining us each Sunday morning for the beginning of worship. And I've enjoyed being able to join you on a more regular basis.

Worship is a time for gathering our church community, a time for singing, reflection and sharing. The word "worship" comes from "worthship," meaning to shape things of worth. It is a time set apart to consider things of worth and value. That's something we all need regardless of our age.

So I'm delighted that this year our children and youth are joining us in the Meeting House every Sunday for the first part of the service before leaving for their Religious Exploration classes in the RE Building. For All Ages services, they are with us for the entire service. Joining us in worship helps children and youth feel more part of the congregation and the rest of us get to know them better.

As Rev. Erika Hewitt, a Unitarian Universalist minister and author, observes, "religious communities are just about the last remaining institutions in our society where children regularly interact with adults who aren't relatives or authority."

Hewitt is the author of a new book on the subject, *Story*, *Song and Spirit*, *Fun and Creative Worship Services for All Ages*. She is also the minister at the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Goleta, Calif.

"In our fellowship halls, church kitchens and religious education classes, children and youth learn how to be in relationship with people who are one, two or even eight decades older than they are," says Hewitt. "Worship is another opportunity to strengthen such relationships."

Worship with children and youth doesn't have to be boring. "A carefully crafted service that engages everyone – kids, young adults, empty-nesters and elders – enlarges the congregation's sense of itself," Hewitt says.

Including children and youth regularly in services also familiarizes them with some of our worship rituals: the sounding of the gong calling us to worship, the musical prelude, the welcome and chalice lighting, the opening hymn and a shared story or song. And it's a wonderful opportunity for families to pause during their often hectic week and spend meaningful time together.

Like adults, children and youth learn by doing and experiencing. Regardless of whether children understand everything, they absorb what they can as well as the sense of being valued and welcomed. Children and youth bring a vibrancy and diversity to our community.

If you have younger children, come early so you can get settled. Consider sitting near the front so they can see what's going on and feel involved. Review the order of service and help them know what to expect. Share hymnal and other material at their eye level. Feel free to whisper instructions to help children learn "worship etiquette."

If your child becomes chatty or fussy, you can sit in the foyer where you can still hear and see the service. Or you can take them to the Nursery in the RE Building.

For those with older children or teens, encourage them to participate and contribute their talents. It's also a chance for them to get to know others in the congregation who may share similar interests, and to widen the circle of caring adults in their lives.

I encourage everyone to greet children and youth as well as adults and get to learn their names. Be open to what you can learn from them as well as what you may have to teach. When children share, respond to them as participants in worship, not performers. Laugh with children – not at them. And be understanding if parents need to take younger ones out and then return.

This is a new experience for us all – children, youth and adults – so be patient with the learning process. Even with the best-laid plans, things won't always go smoothly. And we may need to make adjustments along the way. So please let me know how the experience is going for you.

In the meantime, think about why and how you worship. Remember the times when your heart has been in a holy place and what made them so. Are they different from the experiences you had as a child? Then think about the children and youth at PBUUC. What spiritual experiences do you want them to take with them from this special place when they move on to adulthood?

Karen Lee Scrivo Interim Director of Religious Exploration

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS

RE Need for Assistants. We have teachers for our Preschool, Lower and Upper Elementary classes but still need assistants to help out one or two Sundays a month so that our teachers can get a chance to enjoy services twice a month. This is a wonderful way to get to know our children and youth. In addition, our safety policy requires that we have two adults in each classroom. Please contact Interim DRE Karen Lee Scrivo for more information at idre@pbuuc.org.

RE Registration Continues. If you haven't done so already, please register your children and youth for RE classes. This helps us better plan for classes and get a more accurate count of our total enrollment. Registration forms and information about this year's RE program are available at the RE table in the foyer or in the RE office. If you need additional information, contact RE Assistant Kweli Powell at reassistant@pbuuc.org.

RE Calendar and **RE News** are now available on PBUUC's website – http://www.pbuuc.org. So check there for updates. There is also a description of this year's RE program.

DRE Search Committee. The Director of Religious Exploration Search Committee, under the chairmanship of Marcie Washburn, is hard at work conducting the search for the next leader of our programs for children and youth. In order to discern what the congregation is looking for in a DRE, we have developed a brief (6-question) survey that we will be asking all children, youth and adults to complete during the month of September. The link to this survey can be found below. We will also be sending the link out via the list serve and paper copies will be available in the church foyer for those of you who do not use the Internet. We hope you will take a few minutes to express your point of view to guide us in our search. Just click on or type the link to get started! (see next column for link)

 $\frac{http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AZV2F}{GSAG}$

Financial Notes

ell, I'm back from my 5½ weeks in sunny, humid Melbourne, Florida. It was productive for the taxpayer, but made for a busy treasurer's life as I am catching up with what Ellen Cotts did in my absence and the tasks at hand.

Next month, I will report on how the first quarter of the new fiscal year has gone, based on actual data. But it is no secret we are running on quite a tight budget, given that we no longer have Paint Branch Montessori School as a large renter. But fear not, there are painless ways for you to help your church's finances.

We have many fundraisers, some old, some new. If you have heard the mysterious term "scrip", you have heard of one of our oldest and easiest ways to raise money. If you shop at Giant, Super Fresh, Shopper's or the Greenbelt Co-op, you can buy a "gift card", and the store will donate a percentage of the revenue to Paint Branch. Look for the scrip table in the lobby after service; the person there can fill you in on the details.

Second, we have opened a UU bookstore, run by Carol Carter Walker and friends. You can explore our faith more through buying and reading these books, and help the church financially as well. Their inventory includes books for all ages.

Finally, we have exciting fundraising events in our Ethnic and Regional American dinners and the annual Auction. Both are coming soon; the next Ethnic Dinner on Saturday, October 30, celebrates Mexico's bicentennial (September 16) and the Dia De Los Muertos. The Ethnic Dinners are always a great (and tasty) community builder, both because we share a meal and many hands make it work. You will find me doing my part at the Ethnic Dinner Bar.

Our Auction is two weeks later on Saturday, November 13. The auction is Paint Branch's largest fundraiser, because so many of us provide interesting things to bid on. If you have ideas for salable items, Jan Montville is in charge of the Auction and can help you out. This event also requires a lot of volunteer effort to pull off. I'm sure Jan will accept offers of help as well as items to bid on.

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In short, Paint Branch knows how to put the "fun" into fundraising. I would encourage newcomers and longtime members alike to join in the fun by purchasing scrip or books, or volunteering to help at and attending our next two FUNdraising events.

Mike Stark, Treasurer

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

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

Excerpt of sermon delivered by Leo Jones on September 5, 2010

he Diversity and Anti-Racism Transformation Team (aka DARTT) has done a yeoman's job of raising awareness among members of our congregation through a variety of films, discussions, lectures, worship services, and small group workshops.

It is largely through their hard work and persistence that our Board of Trustees issued a charter to DARTT on April 10, 2008. The charter declares that the mission and ministry of the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) are to raise awareness about racism and promote personal transformation and spiritual growth that will intentionally move our congregation to become a truly welcoming, multi-racial, multi-cultural community. These are lofty goals, to be sure, but they do not speak of action. So, I would like to offer this friendly amendment:

DARTT's mission and, for that matter, the church's mission, must move beyond raising awareness and "promoting personal transformation and spiritual growth" to doing the work of racial justice and multiculturalism. The distinction is not just a matter of semantics.

We have much to celebrate, but I perceive we have reached a crucial "fish or cut bait" point in our church life, when we must put our words and good intentions into action, and to do this we must search our hearts and minds honestly and deeply to discover within ourselves the old ways of thinking that could become barriers to our efforts. Because the attitudes we might encounter are sobering and sometimes unpleasant, and because some of these attitudes do

not reflect our better selves, this work is not for the faint of heart.

We must examine our deepest fears and beliefs, we must expose them to the sanitizing light of day in order to understand and defeat our toughest racist opponent: ourselves. "We have met the enemy and he is us," comic strip character Pogo once proclaimed, and where racism is concerned he demonstrated great wisdom. We can condemn such public racists as Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck secure in the knowledge that we are morally superior to them, unless we admit to ourselves that we still struggle to overcome the irrational thoughts and beliefs bequeathed to us by biology and history. The idea that we have anything in common with such nutcases is enough to send one screaming into the night. That is why this work is not for the faint of heart.

6TH ANNUAL RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

As we strive to live more intentionally our Unitarian Universalist principles, we are challenged to examine the effects that race has on our lives and our relationships, both within our congregation and in our communities. The goal of becoming more authentically welcoming and inclusive within Paint Branch and in our social action can be facilitated through intentional consideration of how feelings of racial superiority and racial oppression affect us.

On October 16, the Joseph Priestley District offers us the opportunity to join with other UUs as we continue our personal journeys toward wholeness and encourage each other on our spiritual paths.

To open our hearts and minds to a day of learning and personal exploration, Leo Jones will lead the opening worship service including the Chalice Dancers with choreography provided by Artistic Director, Sharon Werth. Jesse Crowley and Jessica Sharp will provide music and solos. The keynote will feature Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris; co-author of *The Arc of the Universe is Long: Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism and the Journey from Calgary.* JPD Journey Toward Wholeness Team members will present programming to facilitate awareness and relationship building in our racial justice work.

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Register now to attend this year's racial justice conference – *Walking the Talk: Personalizing the Journey Toward Wholeness.* For online registration, payment and additional information, go to www.jpduua.org and scroll down to 6th Annual Racial Justice Conference. Registration forms can be found in our church lobby.

The Conference will be at Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, 145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA, 19063 on October 16, 2010, from 9:30 am to 4 pm. Registration is \$40.00. After October 12, the fee increases to \$50.00.

Please plan to <u>GO GREEN</u> to and from the UU Church of Delaware County in Media, PA, by contacting Carol at dartt@pbuuc.org. The bus will leave the Paint Branch parking lot at 7 am and return at 7 pm. The cost is \$40.00. Please make your check payable to "JPD" with "DARTT bus" on the memo line. We need to fill the bus, so please reserve your seat. <u>Fair must be paid by Sunday, October 3.</u>

OCTOBER 24: FILM ON RACIAL JUSTICE AND GREEN GOALS



During the 2008 UUA General Assembly, ecojustice activist Van Jones advised UUs to "reconnect with love and enthusiasm" as we transition to a clean, green economy. Jones prompts us to consider the meaning of equal protection in relation to which communities have toxic landfills and which

neighborhoods have stores selling fresh, healthy food. His message illustrates the intersection of racial, economic, and ecological justice. On Sunday, October 24, during an extended Enrichment Hour from 11:45 am – 1:30 pm, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team will show a film of Van Jones' address to the General Assembly. Come view and discuss a film of this inspiring (and amusing!) speaker. If you need child care, please help us plan ahead by emailing patricia_most@msn.com or phone 301-445-2821 by October 13.

DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM (DARTT) MEETS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

All are welcome at the DARTT meeting on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30 pm in Room 1, Religious Exploration Building. DARTT meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan activities for personal and institutional transformation. We will be planning for upcoming events, including the November 14 Suitland High School Continental Breakfast and the December 26 Kwanzaa Service and Feast. This is your opportunity to share feedback and new ideas. If you can't join us, please send your input to dartt@pbuuc.org.

DIVERSITY DIALOGUES

The next session of Diversity Dialogues, (which were not held last month so that all could participate in the Involvements Fair), has been scheduled for Sunday, October 10, during Enrichment Hour in Room 1. Please contact either Theresa Brown Shute at 301-455-8418 or tbshute@gmail.com for more information.



For those of you who are federal employees, please consider designating Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) as you give through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, costefficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

UUSJ's CFC number is 17271. For more information, please visit the CFC's website at http://www.opm.gov/cfc/ or contact Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson at 240-293-6570.

Social Action Committee

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 10:30 am TO 2:30 pm IN THE KELLEY ROOM. SOCIAL ACTION KICK-OFF FOR THIS CHURCH YEAR.

- A PBUUC-wide look at the issues we voted in at our June Congregational Meeting.
- Knowledgeable speakers on Gay, Lesbian,
 Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) legislative
 items and a preview of an afternoon program on
 current thinking about the best ways to turn the
 tide on new infection rates for HIV-AIDS.
- What's going on regarding affordable housing in our neighborhoods? Mosi Harrington, who has been on the front line for years, barely a mile away from Paint Branch, will bring us up to date.
- What has been happening to the State and Federal initiatives to take back some control over corporate spending that influences elections and legislation?

Come find out. And hear about the bills expected to be pre-filed on various things we Really Care About and how we can help them survive to become law before mid-April.

A tasty lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. Small groups aimed at planning action for the fall in preparation for lobbying in Annapolis and with members of Congress will run from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Knowledgeable group leaders will make this the high point of the day.

A rally on the mall in DC focused on peace issues will be co-sponsored by the UUA and UU churches in the area are supporting it. Car pools will leave from Paint Branch at the close of our Kick-off. Nothing like a FULL DAY.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

Thanks to all who helped the CROP Hunger Walk. Contributions totaled \$570. 25% goes to our local Help by Phone that provides emergency food aid through a network of church pantries; the other funds go to parts of the world where food crises and a lack of clean water contribute to serious public health emergencies. We especially appreciated Becky and Dave Nation, who walked the circumference of Lake Artemesia that afternoon.

Thanks for contributing a total of \$550 to the Waterkeeper Alliance, a non-profit organization which monitors and lobbies to preserve the ecological balance from our local Anacostia (to which our Paint Branch contributes) to the water systems affected by mountain top removal for coal mining.

GOODLOE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation is sponsoring the Fourth Annual Fundraiser for Bowie State University Scholarship on Friday, October 1, at 7:00 pm. The featured speaker is Gini Courter, Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Her topic will be "Living, Serving, Worshipping in a Multicultural Environment." Tickets are: \$10 per person, \$8 student and \$25 family. See Carol Carter Walker or contact her at dartt@pbuuc.org for tickets and further information.

NETWORK OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESSIVES

Network of Spiritual Progressives meets on Wednesday, September 29, at 7:00 pm in Room 1. In October the group, will revert to its usual pattern of meeting on the 4th Wednesdays. The program for September will be a follow-up to issues worked on at the national conference in DC early in the summer.

OUT IN THE SILENCE: A DOCUMENTARY FOR CHANGE

This documentary will be viewed at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road, in Bowie, on Wednesday, September 22, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The requested donation is \$35. This film follows the story of a small American town confronting a firestorm of controversy ignited by a same-sex wedding announcement in the local paper. Prior to the film, wine, beer, and appetizers will be served. A Q & A with the director follows the film, finishing with desert. Sponsored by the Prince George's County LGBTQ Youth Task Force, comprised of state and local governmental personnel, youth advocates, and private citizens committed to establishing a spectrum of services to ensure the safety and well-being of LGBTQ youth in PG County.

Come to the Feast

Saturday November 13, 2010

Our annual Fun and Fund raiser Auction

How you can be involved and share in the fun

- 1. Participate in live and silent bidding
- 2 Enjoy entertainment after the live auction
- 3 Share a community meal at the Auction
- 4 Learn the talents of our members
- 5 Share auction dinners and events throughout the year

How many ways can you contribute?

- 1 Donate a party meal
- 2 Donate a game night or a movie night
- 3 Donate a tour to your favorite place or lead a hike
- 4 Donate tickets to games or plays
- 5 Donate a service [home handyman, tax preparing, cleaning help]
- 6. Other ??? Be creative, it keeps you young!

<u>Many</u> volunteers help make this event happen – there are approximately 100 volunteer tasks – please offer your help for one (or more)!

The 2009 auction raised almost \$23,000. We'd like to do better than that this year – and it will be easier. We have reclaimed our Religious Exploration Building space, so we can set up and use our building as we please.

A donation form is included in this newsletter, and can also be found on the web, at www.pbuuc.org. Forms are also available in the church foyer. Leave the completed forms in the box at church or send the information to auction@pbuuc.org. For more information, contact Jan Montville at jan.montville@verizon.net, or jan.montville@ars.usda.gov, or 301-464-6928.

To borrow from the theme of this year's Ingathering service,
please "Come to the Feast" –
everyone can bring something to, and everyone can take something from,
this exciting event...
our biggest and most important fund raiser for Paint Branch.

2010 Auction Donation and Volunteer Form

Name: _		Contact Information: (phone & email)					
Donati	on:	(phone & en	iaii <i>)</i>				
	onation for catalog:						
e.g. Super	Bowl Party, Tuscan dinner, V	Vacation in Great Sm	oky Mountains, Home r	epair services, etc.)			
Category	(please circle one):						
	Event/Entertainment	Sports	Vacation	Service			
	Home and Garden		Handcraft/Art	Jewelry/Accessories			
	on for catalog: (Please be a see list number of seats and de		le, e.g. size and color of	an item, or for a dinner o i			
							
Estimate o	of Fair Market Value: \$_	(For your	own tax purposes)				
For single	item: Minimum bid: \$						
For auctio	on dinners/events: Maxim	um number of guest	s:				
Min	nimum bid per person: \$	OR- Fixed	price per person: \$				
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Date of di	nner/event:	(Enter specif	ic date or "TBA", i.e.	to be arranged)			
	The Auction will be h There are many task			-			
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Return	form: 1) Via E	Email to <u>auctio</u>	<u>n@pbuuc.org,</u> o	r			
by Oct 31 i	olease!)	auction Donation	n Box in Meetin	g House Fover, or			

- 3) Via US Postal Service to:

PBUUC Auction 3215 Powder Mill Road Adelphi, MD 20783

Don't Know What to Donate? Here are some suggestions:

- A dinner party for two or for as many as you can handle, at your house or at the church, as simple or as elegant as you like people bid on seats at the table. Great way to get to know others in the community.
- A movie or game night at your house or the church, with snacks.
- A stay at a time share, second home or get-away.
- A guided tour of your favorite place in the area like a bird walk, a tour of Annapolis, or the National Building Museum.
- A special piece of art or craft from a special place.
- A piece of your own craft or artwork.
- A night out at the opera, baseball or football game, movies, play, concert, etc.
- A service: e.g. packing boxes, handy man services, babysitting, tax preparation, knitting or crochet lessons, massage, etc.
- Baked goodies from your own kitchen or a special casserole or other dish.

We encourage genuine collectibles, but remember that the Auction is not the place for typical yard sale items.

You can set a specific date for the meals, events and services, or make arrangements later with the winning bidders. (Generally, the service should be delivered before the next Auction, usually held in November.)

If you use the church for a meal or event, you will have to make arrangements with the Church Administrator for the space and a building manager. You may need to provide child care, using a list of approved child care providers available through the Church Administrator.

Volunteering is a great way to deepen your connection to members of the church community. To help make the Auction a success, consider:

- **4** Being an auctioneer
- **Staffing the check-in table**
- Helping with set-up / clean-up
- Monitoring the silent auction tables
- Organizing and displaying the donated items
- Creating and assembling the main and supplemental catalogs
- **②** Soliciting gift certificates from vendors in the community
- Soliciting ads from church members
- Working on the data entry team for tallying bids
- Serving as a cashier
- **Ontact Jan Montville or Theresa Shute to get more information and to volunteer for a specific task.**

In and Around Paint Branch

LIVING BY HEART: A MONTHLY ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PROGRAM WITH DAY AND EVENING SESSIONS

Starting in October, I will offer "Living by Heart: A Guide to Spiritual Practices for Unitarian Universalists." If you have been meaning to begin a daily routine that centers you, but find it hard to get started or continue, or if you have one and are open to others, or would simply enjoy sharing that journey with other PBUUC'ers, this may be the program for you!

Two separate groups will be offered, both on the first Wednesday of the month: one from 10 am to noon and the other from 7:30 to 9 pm. The first meeting of each will be on Wednesday, October 6 in the RE Building.

The first meeting will be introductory, after which a commitment is expected: to attend each monthly class, do the daily "homework" as best you can, and take about a half hour to prepare for the next class. It's a twelve-month program, so it will go through next October, but what to do over the summer months will be determined by each group. I'm looking for a minimum of six and maximum of twelve in each group.

We will use *Living by Heart*, a spiritual practice resource developed by Rev. Laurel Hallman based on a lifetime of spiritual practice by the late Rev. Harry Scholefield (both Unitarian Universalist ministers). Together they created a wonderful video, around which the course will be centered; Laurel later produced a workbook, which will be available at cost to those who attend the introductory session. Each month's gathering will turn our focus toward a new practice. We will share experiences of the previous month's practice and be introduced to the new one. The series of practices they introduce will give us practical ways to nurture your inner self, claim the wisdom of the ages in the midst of your busy life, and live with depth, meaning and purpose.

A year is a substantial commitment, but the meetings are only monthly, and spiritual growth might change your life! To sign up for the introductory session, email office@pbuuc.org or call 301-937-3666, or register in the Meeting House foyer. Parents who want to attend could chip in for child care to take place in the nursery or preschool room, so please indicate your interest in that when you sign up.

Rev. Diane Teichert

MARYLAND, <u>OUR</u> MARYLAND LOCOVORE ETHNIC DINNER

Of all 54 dinners, this may have been the one *most* meant to be. Jeri Holloway suggested Maryland, and later, when Jennifer Robinson suggested Locavore, I realized the two belonged together. The Ethnic Dinner Committee joined forces with the Green Team (coordinated by Rene McDonald) and the RE Committee, staff and parents who helped involve the children.

Some Paint Branchers never miss an Ethnic Dinner; others come only when they are regional American. Parents of young children find it difficult to attend dinners which begin at 7:30 pm and serve food unfamiliar to kids. And, *no one* comes to any summer events, right? Guess again! 95 people, including 13 children gathered at 5:30 on Saturday, August 28, to find out what Marylanders eat!

We enjoyed the familiar – crabs, chicken, biscuits and ice cream, seasonal locavore such as green beans, corn on the cob, fresh fruit, and peach crisp, – and foreign dishes made with local, seasonal foods, fresh salsa, basil pesto, and gazpacho. Uniquely Maryland dishes most of us had never eaten included stuffed ham and Smith Island Cake. Along with it we had local wines, beer brewed in Baltimore, and Tish Hall's homemade Beer Bread.

Carol Carter-Walker tended door. Set-up/bar master, Mike Stark, although working in Florida, advised Chris Bolt, who very competently tended bar with Norma Jean Thacker. Set-up was done by Eric and Tricia Most, Don Henderson, Chuck Bury, Ron Cotts, Becky and Dave Nation, Jennifer Robinson, Mark Kornick, Jeri Holloway, and Marj Donn who brought flowers, including Black-eyed Susans, for all the tables.

Food was provided by Kathy Kearns, Alice and Bob Tyler, Muriel Morisey, Brenda and Skip Anna, Marilyn Pearl, Cathy Helmold, Adeline Wilcox, Bonnie Hurley, Marilyn's neighbors - Regina and Bob Bromery - Rene McDonald, Tish Hall, Mary Dancy and Lee Dudek, Sandra Roberts, Joann Alexander, Becky Hedin, and Karine Bouis-Towe. Dave and Jane Trout made the coffee. Norma Jean Thacker drove to Southern Maryland for stuffed ham, Don Gerson purchased the crabs. Ice cream was made by Jeri Holloway with kid-power to turn the crank provided by Timmy Anna, Ottilie Wilcox, Ryley Komisar-Bury, Declan Sheehan, Benjamin and Anthony Pierzchala.

David Chapman played piano while Don Mitchell sang the new (improved) lyrics written by Deni Foster for "Maryland, My Maryland." Brenda Anna provided CDs of music by Maryland artists for the rest of the evening. Don Gerson photographed the food and participants.

Clean up was accomplished by Becky
Sheehan, Tabitha Pierzchala, Kathy Kearns, Penny
O'Brien, Muriel Morisey, Peter Wathen-Dunn, David
Chapman, Ron Cotts, Cathy Helmold, Sandy
Roberts, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Don Gerson,
Michael Leger, John Sebastian, Becky and Dave
Nation, Chris Bolt, Marilyn Pearl, Norma Jean
Thacker, Patty Daukantas, and Chuck Bury.
These combined efforts of three committees and over
50 volunteers resulted in one of the most successful
dinners ever. Everyone had a great time and ate well,
while making \$971 for Paint Branch.

The next dinner will be October 30, when we celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and wish Mexico a happy 200th birthday. See the article immediately following for more information.

NEXT ETHNIC DINNER ~ MÉXICO; DOS CELEBRACIONES

In 2001 the 5th of May (aka *Cinco de Mayo*) fell on a Saturday, so our May dinner had to be Mexico! This year, we have a twofer for October 30 – *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) comes just three days later, and 2010 is Mexico's bicentennial. So once again, obviously, Mexico!

(continued next column)

The Day of the Dead is less like Halloween and more like Memorial Day. It's the day Mexicans joyously remember and honor their deceased loved ones, a tradition dating back to the Aztecs. It's very much a food event, ideal for our revisit south of the border. When this is published, there is still time to make and publicize plans if anyone can arrange for those coming to the dinner to bring mementos of people they've lost. Rev. Teichert is not planning a Dia de los Muertos service this year, so the dinner provides that opportunity.

Tickets (\$15 per adult), the menu, recipes and volunteer sign-up sheets will be available after Sunday services on October 10, 17 and 24. Marilyn Pearl and Cathy Helmold will be traveling, and will not be at the ticket table on the 10th and 17th, but will be back on the 24th and of course, for the dinner. In their absence, Kathy Kearns, Marcie Washburn, Ellen Cotts and Pat Tompkins will sell tickets and suggest how you can help.

As usual, we will need volunteers to cook, tend the door, set up, assist cooks in the kitchen, help with the bar, provide CDs of Mexican music, make coffee and clean up. Decorations would be an optional task for anyone who is interested.

There are so many more Mexican dishes to choose from than we can possibly put in our menu. But there are a few which must be included, some that are connected to the holiday, and others which we in the US don't often have. So, look forward to *Pico de Gallo, Chicken Molé, Quesadillas, Sopa de Tortilla, Pan de Muertos* and yes, there will be *Flan*! Many dishes are vegetarian, or can be, if we know vegetarians are attending. If you are vegetarian, vegan or gluten intolerant, please let us know when you get your ticket. To make a lot of some of these dishes, we need to borrow some slow-cookers and some bundt pans, $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 quart capacity. Tell Kathy if you have any to loan us.

NEW TIME, 6:30 pm. NEW TIME! Following the Maryland Dinner, several people said they preferred the start time of 5:30. A few of us preparing the dinner found it difficult to have everything at church in time to start then. So, this one will start at 6:30 pm. We hope that still allows some children (half-price) to attend, and if so, would anyone be interested in finding or making a *piñata* for them?

We also learned some people who would like to attend the dinners, can no longer drive after dark. If you are willing to give them a ride, please let Marilyn or Kathy know.

If you have any questions, can arrange a Dia de los Muertos altar, provide a piñata, pans or slow-cookers, or recorded Mexican music, volunteer in any other way, or wish to make reservations, contact Kathy Kearns at 301-277-3211, or you can email her at kkearns@hotmail.com prior to October 24. After October 24, contact Marilyn Pearl at 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

SPACE OPTIONS II: THE SEQUEL

If you've taken a look inside the Religious Exploration (RE) Building lately you'll know that it's been a long time since that space has looked so clean and sparkling--and spacious! Many thanks to Polly Petit and Peter Dowling and the many volunteers who have worked so hard on the RE Move-In Committee to get the RE Building ready for this fall's classes.

Now the Space Options II Task Force has started work on fitting out the adult space with furniture and trying to find renters for the space on the lower level. Along the way we also hope to spark interest in temporary rentals of rooms on the upper level.

So far, the committee consists of John Bartoli and Carol Carter Walker. We will be adding more members in the very near future. We want input and leads on possible tenants from the congregation. If you have any contacts with people interested in using our space, please contact either John Bartoli at john.bartoli@verizon.net or 301-441-2516, or Carol Carter Walker at 202-636-8138 or carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net.

WE CARE COORDINATORS NEED YOUR HELP

Sometimes the monthly "We Care" Coordinator is unaware of a congregation member who could use a card, a call, a casserole or other services provided by "We Care". Please let the monthly coordinator know of any situation that merits our services. The "We Care" Coordinator for October is Elizabeth Scheiman (301) 731-2874.

PAINT BRANCH BOOKSTORE OPEN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

Did you like the poem by Mary Oliver that Reverend Diane Teichert excerpted in her sermon, "On Purpose" last month? Want to enjoy more of this poet? Come and buy one of Mary Oliver's poetry collections at the Paint Branch Bookstore on Sunday, October 3, right after service.

There'll be UU-themed books for adults and children. We will also be selling books by our own authors Lynn Johnson and Marj Donn.

The Bookstore is a win-win for the church and for you. You can build your library and knowledge about Unitarian Universalism, have a convenient source for gift buying and raise money for the church. Ellen Cotts, Carol Carter Walker and Liese Wright are the current volunteers.

Come to the store buy, browse and place orders for delivery the following month.

ART GALLERY NEWS



Our current exhibit is by Ruth Kinsey of Alexandria, VA. Many of Ruth's works are inspired by women who model at the Art League School in the Torpedo Factory; ordinary women she comes across in everyday life; goddesses of

Greek mythology; and women of the theatre. Geometric, window-like blocks of brilliant color become the backdrop for a character who tells us a story. Her style rebels against convention by liberating the viewer from what's expected to what's unexpected. Ruth began work as a scene designer and has been painting since 2004.

Keeping the Meeting House supplied with new and exciting things to look at is sometimes a challenge. If you know of an artist whose work would show off well and who might be interested in exhibiting at our church, please contact Jane Trout at 301 572-2898 or jd trout@msn.com. Our exhibits last about 6 to 8 weeks and we allow the artist to have a reception although they do need to provide the refreshments. If any sales are made the artist pays a commission of 20% to the church.

GREEN TEAM REPORT



Weeds beware! The Green Team and the Building & Grounds Committee want your help to rid the Paint Branch grounds of those bullying plants known as "invasives" on Saturday, October 2, from 9 am to noon. Workers can stay as

long as they wish. Bring along gloves, clippers, spades, and good spirits. You may want to wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and closed-toe shoes. We have folks who can identify what needs to be removed. All ages are welcomed to help.

We are reaching out to the wider community by asking church members to also help with invasive plant removal at the Little Paint Branch Park on Saturday, October 30, from 11 am to 1 pm and again on Saturday, November 27. This is a joint effort with the Sierra Club, Anacostia Watershed Society, and the Maryland Native Plant Society. We will meet in the parking lot of the Community Center on Sellman Road between Cherry Hill Road and Montgomery Road.

Remember the seventh UU principle: Respect for the Interdependent Web of all Existence. Let's show the weeds and the public that we practice what we preach. We'll be looking for you on October 2, October 30, and November 27, even if you've never helped before.

LUNCH CLUB MEETING AT THE LAUREL OLIVE GARDEN ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, AT 1:00 PM



TWedHULK will be lunching at the Olive Garden at 14650 Baltimore Avenue, just south of the Laurel Mall. The Third Wednesday Hyattsville area UU Lunch Klub is open to all who are free in the middle of the day. If

you plan to come, contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572 or just show up. (We planned to be at the venerable Italian Inn in Landover Hills and have discovered it is no longer in business.)

PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Yes, there will be a **Thanksgiving Dinner** at Paint Branch on Thanksgiving Day. Look for more information in November, but in the meantime, if you have memories of past Thanksgiving dinners at PBUUC, organizer Tish Hall would love to hear from you. You can call her at 301-681-1457 or email her at LBCHALL@gmail.com

And once again, the **Poinsettia Sale** will begin in October. Tish will be distributing order forms for Behnke's Poinsettias on October 31. She doesn't like to start so early, but this is the only way to give everyone a month to order before Behnke's deadline. This is the last year that Tish will be leading the Poinsettia Sale. If you think you'd like to take over "the most beautiful fundraiser of the year," please contact her about helping out this year to learn the ropes.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU...

to Ron Cotts and Lowell Owens for the sturdy new staircase between the deck and the dell. They spent many hot hours constructing it with some help from members of the Building and Grounds Committee and other friends.

OVERFLOW PARKING



Park on Bornedale Road, which intersects Cherry Hill Road between Powder Mill Road and the overpass for I-95, and is also reachable from Powder Mill Road via Collier and Boxer Roads. Enter through the back door of the RE Building or walk on the path along the stream-

side of the building to the stairs up to the deck.

Park on the service road that runs along Powder Mill Road on the same side as PBUUC and walk from there down a short but rough path to the PBUUC parking lot, through the lot, and to the deck from there.

PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

	≪ STAFF %		⋄ COMMITTEES ⋄		
		301-937-3666	Adult Religious Education		TBD
Music Director and	pianist		Aesthetics		TBD
	David Chapman	301-937-3666	Arts Council	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Interim RE Director	Karen Lee Scrivo	301-937-3666	Budget Leadership	•	TBD
Rel. Exploration As	st		Buildings & Grounds	Paul Young	301-490-4957
	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666	DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most	301-445-2821
Church Administrat	or			Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666	Denominational Affair	rs Donald Gerson	240-293-6570
Administrative Ass			Finance	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
	Rebecca Birnie	301-937-3666	Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Dir. Chalice Dancer		301-937-3666	Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:			Membership		TBD
	Chuck Bury	301 799-2535	Ministry	Muriel Morisey	301-270-2391
	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663	Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
	Beth Judy	301-937-3666	Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
	Kamini Wickramaratne	301-937-3666	Publicity & Outreach	Kathy Kearns	301-277-5211
	AND BOARD OF TR	USTEES 👁	(Co chairs) Theresa Brown Shute 301-455-8418		
Co- Chair	Susannah Schiller	301-776-1887	Religious Exploration	N D 1	TBD
Co-chair	Bettie Young	301-490-4957	Social Action	Nancy Boardman	301-982-3450
Vice chair	Don Henderson	301-977-1186	(Co-chairs)	Jessica Sharp	240-280-2582
Vice chair	Michael Léger	301-589-6808	Stewardship	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Trustee	Patty Daukantas	301-486-1949	Visual Arts	Jane Trout Jeri Holloway	301-572-2898
Trustee	Tim Illig	410-707-6678	We Care Network	PS AND ACTIVITIES	301-982-0758
Trustee	Rene McDonald	301-779-1643	Auction	Jan Montville	301-464-6298
Trustee	Mark Shute	301-442-6312	Beacon House	Nathan Rummel	301-776-8551
Trustee	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391	Bridge	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Secretary	Anita Wagner	703-401-7230	Chalice Dancers	Jennifer Grant	240-426-1277
Assistant Secretary		TBD	Choir	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473	Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Assistant Treasurer	Ellen Cotts (temp)	301-572-3983	Community Café	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
a CA	❖ CARING COMMUNITY ❖		Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl	301-805-1218
Pastoral Care Associ		9 •	Friends & Family Soc	ial Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
astorar Care Assoc	Carol Boston	301-585-4183	Golf Club	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
•	Lynn Johnson	301-890-1852	Handcraft Circle	Marie Gore	301-572-4679
•	Teresa Meeks	301-774-8151	Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield	301-552-4330
•	Deb Rubenstein		Mediation Program	David Haberman	301-498-7086
•	Deb Rubenstein	301-891-2071	Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn	
ℴ ₩E CARE (COORDINATOR - OC	CTOBER 🦫	Nature Spirituality Cir		301-982-4520
	Elizabeth Scheiman	301-731-2874	Quest Discussion Grou	•	301-345-1572
			PB Facebook Page	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
	RSHIP ASSOCIATES		(Co-coordinators)	Ken Montville	301-464-8367
	by Crowley	301-345-2663	Poetry Out Loud	Shantida	301-593-0417
	h Hall (co-leader)	301-681-1457	Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker	
• Do:	nald Mitchell	301-776-2359	Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
• Joh	n Sebastian	301-589-6808	Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner	301-890-9072
• Sha	intida (co-leader)	301-593-0417	Spring Crafts Fair TWedHUULK	Tish Hall Marge Owens	301-681-1457 301-345-1572
• Car	ol Carter Walker	202-636-8138	Ushers	Esther Nichols	301-343-1372
_	DDANGIEG		Warm Nights	Stewart Speaker	301-804-2008
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Branches Deadlines:

- November Edition Wednesday, October 20
- December Edition Friday, November 19