

# BUC

BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH

*Our mission is to create a free and welcoming religious community that encourages lives of integrity service, learning and joy.*

## Upcoming Services February Theme: Creation

Creation in its myriad forms is our February theme. Many spiritual traditions include a foundational creation story that points to God as creator; what role, if any, do humans have in the ongoing creation? What sorts of obstacles arise to the process of creation, and how might we overcome those obstacles? How does our understanding of creation shape our feelings about change?

February 3: “Build Up, Tear Down” – The new growth that manifests in creation sometimes is a simple variation on what came before; other times, it appears radically different. Creation in our personal lives, the ways we grow, can happen smoothly and naturally, or may be experienced as a painful, even destructive process. Kathy and Worship Associate Camille Harris reflect on the different ways we grow, and how we can cooperate so that growth comes more easily to us.

February 10: “How It All Started” – We know the familiar story of creation told by the Bible, in which Adam and Eve start out in the perfect Garden of Eden, only to disobey and be cast out into the larger, less perfect world. In a multigenerational service, Kathy, WA Liz Wendell, and Lifespan Member Pamela McAlpin look deeper at this foundational story of our beginnings to see whether more is going on than is traditionally taught.

February 17: “Cosmogogenesis.” We live in an evolutionarily emergent universe coming into being through an irreversible sequence of transformations. In other words, the universe itself is the source of an immense, continuous process of creativity, hence a cosmo-genesis. As the universe develops it moves from a lesser to a greater order of complexity and from a lesser to greater consciousness. . UU’s, with our stress on the interdependent web of all existence, can benefit from this understanding as we seek to foster a mutually enhancing earth-human relationship. Guest Minister Rev. Greg Martin, ministerial intern for UU Church of Greater Lansing along with WA Gregg Bloomfield.

February 24: “It Ain’t Perfect” – We tend to expect that creative change and growth carries us to a better way of living and being, so that over time we hope to reach if not perfection, then at least a higher state than our present one. But some spiritual traditions teach that imperfection is a necessary and useful quality of life. Kathy and WA Kristi Fielder consider whether something less than perfect might be just what we need in our lives.



## Further Exploration

For further reflections about creation, consider the following resources:

Films: “Love/Hate/Love”—a study of three families who lost a loved one to terrorism, and how they are transformed in the process of coming to terms with their loss.

Books: *Art & Fear: Observations On the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking*, David Bayles & Ted Orland

## Mark Your Calendar

Names of BUC members, and their families who have passed, may be engraved into the granite cenotaphs in our Memorial Glen this May and recognized at the annual Memorial Service on Sunday, May 26th. The deadline for requests is April 1, 2012; to find out more details regarding cost and requirements, please submit requests to Fred Straky or Sylvia Whitmer.



## Connections: Joys & Sorrows

*To submit Joys and Sorrows for upcoming newsletters, please submit on our website newsletter submission form or write in the Joys and Sorrows book on Sunday morning.*

BUC Member, Kerrie McMillen's father passed away the last week in December. He was 88 years old. Kerrie, her mom and her sister were able to be with him. She is relieved he is now pain free.

Wishing a speedy recovery to Pat Kridler who is recovering from back surgery.

Larry Freedman's daughter, Emily, is starting kidney dialysis this week. The kidney transplant she received from her sister eighteen months ago is failing due to the same genetic disease. She is on the kidney transplant list. Please keep her in your thoughts.

Carol Forrester shares her joy in having two of her children married in 2012. Megan Saletta and Nick Buzinski were married in August and in December, Steve Saletta and Jill Roberts were married. Congratulations!

Alison and Doug Rule are sharing their joy at the marriage of their son, Bill to Ashlie Radamacher on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Charlie Kosuth, engineering student at U of M, reports that the "Woven Wind" group, where he is a project leader, has won a \$5,000 award in an international competition to support their work providing renewable energy to a remote village in Guatemala.

Priscilla Hildum slipped on the ice and broke her hip in early January. After undergoing surgery, and a short convalescence stay, she is glad to be home.

Needs Network: Thank you for the holiday gift donations for the Lighthouse! Your generosity helps to make the Christmas season brighter for families in the Pontiac area. Special thanks to Denise Newman for delivering our gifts.

Are there any BUCers who have large collection of Audio Books and would like to form an exchange club? Contact Nash Boutros at [nboutros@med.wayne.edu](mailto:nboutros@med.wayne.edu)

## Welcome! Here's Your Order of Service and How About Some Coffee?

YOU make our church what it is. YOU create the environment that embraces all of us; as we enter the building, the Sanctuary, give our offerings, and fellowship in the Social Hall after services. Please participate in this very important part of our shared community by volunteering to be a Greeter, an Usher, or a Coffee Host on Sunday mornings. It's an easy way to contribute to BUC. Sign Up today at [SignUp Genius](#).

Speaking of connections... if you need a permanent nametag, or need a replacement nametag, please email our office assistant, Joanne Copeland at [joanne.copeland@bucmi.org](mailto:joanne.copeland@bucmi.org) Knowing each other's names certainly helps us in our interactions.

## Buy a Heart to Save a Heart

Under the Board of Trustees direction, the Pastoral Care Associates have volunteered to conduct a fund-raising program in February to offset the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator for BUC. An AED is a portable device that, during a sudden cardiac arrest, checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore normal rhythm.

PCA's will be selling hearts on February 17 and 24 in the Social Hall following each service and will be available to answer any questions about how an AED will be used and maintained at BUC."

Here is a link to a website that does a great job of providing an overview of what an AED is and how it is used.

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/aed/>

**Please stop by the PCA table to buy a heart for \$10 for this cause. The heart you save may be your own!**



## Getting Involved: Support, Dancing & Film Buffs

### Friday, February 1 – Community Contra Dance!

Time to shake off that cabin fever! On Friday, Feb. 1, join your fellow BUCers for an evening of fun and fellowship in the BUC Social Hall. We will enjoy a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by contra-dancing from 7:30 to 9. There will be a caller and two fiddlers from Ann Arbor to keep us on our toes. Each family will be asked to contribute a small fee to cover the cost of the musicians. 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Sign up [HERE](#).

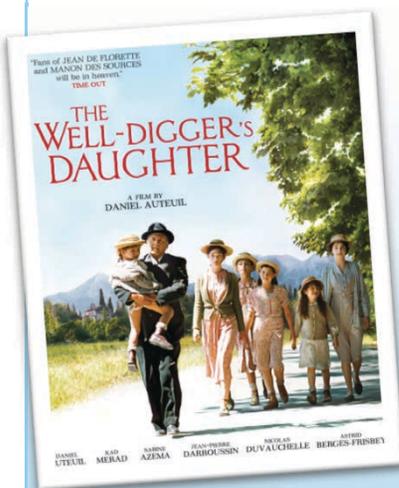
Still Collecting Busted Lights for Recycling through February ~ Collection Bags located in BUC's Main Office.

### Grief Group – Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

An open grief group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 in the Small Conference Room (left of the main entrance in the RE hallway). Whether you have had a recent loss or one from a while ago – you are welcome in this group. Dropping in for one meeting or coming every month is fine. If you have questions, please contact Grace Rising at 248-219-9654 or [gbrising@comcast.net](mailto:gbrising@comcast.net)



## Film Buffs: Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>



"Twenty-five years after rising to international acclaim in Jean de Florette and Manon of the Spring, Daniel Auteuil returns to the world of Marcel Pagnol for his first work as director with this enchanting new version of Pagnol's 1940 classic, The Well-Digger's Daughter. Auteuil stars as the eponymous well-digger Pascale, a widower living with his six daughters in the Provence countryside at the start of World War I. His eldest, Patricia (the luminous Astrid Bergès-Frisbey), has returned home from Paris to help raise her sisters, and Pascale dreams of marrying her off to his loyal assistant Felipe (Kad Merad). But when her relationship with a wealthy young pilot (Nicolas Duvauchelle) causes an unforeseen rift in the emotional landscape, Pascale is left to contend with the difficult consequences. An exquisitely crafted, richly sun-drenched melodrama, set to a haunting score by Academy Award-nominee Alexandre Desplat (The King's Speech, Moonrise Kingdom), Auteuil's directorial debut recaptures the warmth and humanist spirit of Pagnol's inspired original. In French with English subtitles." -DFT Fall 2012 Film Guide

The Well-Diggers Daughter (France, 2011, 105 minutes) was not rated by the MPAA.

The Commons at 7:00 p.m. Snacks provided. For more information contact Larry at 248-569-0965 or [LJWisniew@yahoo.com](mailto:LJWisniew@yahoo.com).

## Worship Associates at BUC



Each Sunday the worship services are co-led by Senior Minister Kathy Hurt and a member of the BUC team of Worship Associates. While ministers are a familiar figure and routinely lead worship, a worship associate is a less familiar figure. The question naturally arises; why not have the minister lead the entire service? Why include a layperson, however skilled that person may be in providing a public presentation?

Worship associates were originally developed by a UU congregation in Oakland, California, as a way of including a fresh voice in services. While assorted lay leaders have often appeared in worship services, their usual function was to make special announcements of some sort, as when we have someone do an announcement for rummage, or to simply welcome visitors. The role of a worship associate, however, was to be not simply utilitarian, as an "extra" or an insert into a service, nor to ease the Sunday workload of the minister, but to open the possibility of a richer worship experience through the inclusion of another voice besides that of the minister. Thus whatever theme is providing the focus of a service can be developed not by the minister alone, nor just by the minister and perhaps the music staff, but also by a member of the congregation who can bring to the theme the perspective of the community.

Another rationale for the use of worship associates comes from the notion of "shared ministry," a concept which claims that while a congregation may be served by an ordained minister, the actual work of ministry is carried out by all members of the church, in common commitment to the mission of the congregation. By having a minister and a layperson jointly lead worship, the message is given that we are all in this together, all together responsible for making this church work, for fulfilling our mission.

In BUC worship planning, the worship associates meet monthly with Kathy to discuss the previous month's services with a view to assessing the quality of the services, to be trained in actual worship leading, and to participate in a conversation that Kathy facilitates on the theme for services in the coming month, reflecting on all aspects of the theme and questions it raises for our lives. With the insights of this conversation, Kathy and the

associate designated for each Sunday then plan how the theme will be developed on a particular Sunday through readings, meditations, and the sermon. Kathy expects the associate to be a full partner in the planning, to select what s/he will read rather than simply reading something the minister has chosen. Members of the present group of worship associates have chosen to serve BUC in this capacity for a variety of reasons. Here is what some of them say about their worship role:

"As a Worship Associate, I feel honored to be part of the worship service and hope to help create a worship experience that is inviting, inclusive and meaningful. I work hard to try to select elements that will add to the richness of our service, to complement the day's theme or to bring out a slightly different perspective on it. I often have congregants ask me for copies of readings or meditations after service, and I hope that is an indication that I have connected with them and enhanced their worship experience or helped them in some small way on their spiritual journey. When I attend worship services as a congregant, I appreciate hearing the readings, blessings or meditations selected by the Worship Associate and think it brings depth and breadth to the service. To me, it seems that the Worship Associate is representing the congregation up on the chancel. I find that when I occasionally attend services at other UU churches who don't use Worship Associates, that I miss them." (Kristi Fielder).

"We, lay and ordained, carry our experiences into our sacred spaces. Being able to share those experiences together in worship is a powerful gift to our Unitarian Universalist faith." (Ben Gabel)  
 "As a congregant and a Worship Associate, I speak as a second voice on the topic of the day. I'm honored to offer a slightly different perspective from the minister as I add my own comments and experiences to the worship hour. In that way, I hope to further deepen the morning experience for all." (Ed Sharples)



Ed Sharples, WA on Sunday, January 27, 2013

## Discussion Groups @ BUC

### Science for Everyone

The group will meet on Tuesday 19 February at 7:30 PM in the large conference room. We will view a TED talk by Lee Smolin (a physicist) titled "Science and Democracy", followed by a discussion.

### Sacred & Profane

The group will meet on Wednesday February 20 at 10:30 AM to view a TED talk by Dr. Abraham Verghese titled "A Doctor's Touch", after which we will discuss our own experiences of doctor-patient relationships.

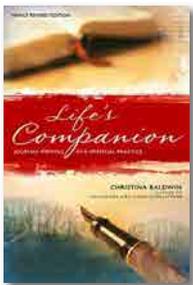
### Words and Spirit

As winter settles in around us, some turn inward for reflection and quiet. These two different groups which meet monthly at the church behind the Blue door at 7:00 pm. will help you do that! They are both facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans and are open to drop in as well as regular attendees.

#### February 4 – Spiritual Conversations; Poetry and Reflection

This month the group will be looking at poems and prose writing about "creation". Feel free to bring a poem or short piece of prose related to this topic or to anything that moves your spirit. We reflect on the topic together and then share poems we have brought. We are interested in what moves us, what we wrestle with, who we are as UUs.

#### February 18 – Journal Writing as a Spiritual Quest

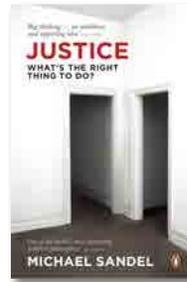


This group spends time writing together. We will begin our use of the book Life's Companion; Journal Writing as a Spiritual Quest by Christina Baldwin. The book can be ordered on Amazon, though it is not necessary to own the book to participate in the group. The group is always open to

beginners and pros alike. Sharing is always optional. Bring your journal, a pen and a willing spirit.

### Sunday Morning Book Discussion

If you are not sure how to deal with some of today's most vexing issues like the moral limits of markets, assisted suicide, affirmative action; come join the Sunday Morning Discussion Group for a series of invigorating discussions based on Michael Sandel's highly acclaimed book, JUSTICE: What's the Right Thing To Do? Sandel, one of Harvard's most popular lecturers, prepares



readers by reviewing a few of the major traditions of ethical thinking and applying them to some of today's major quandaries. Some of the chapters have the tension of a well-balanced sporting event.

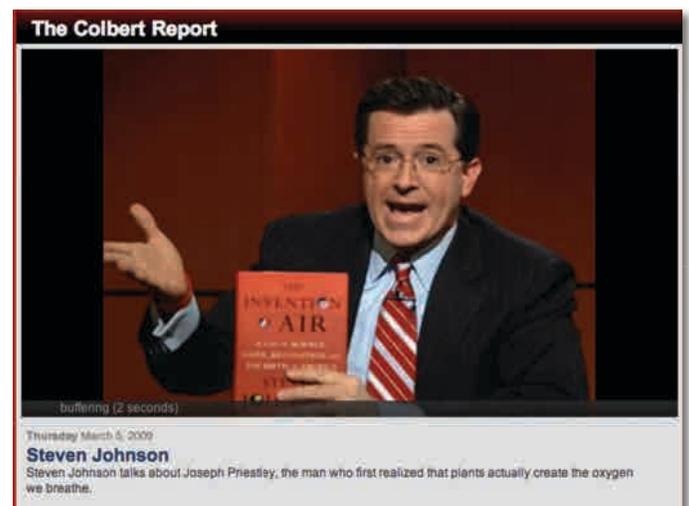
Discussion began January 6. You are welcome to come to just one discussion or all of them. If you sign up you will be notified of the coming week's topic a week in

advance. Contact Diane Lake at [diane.lake@comcast.net](mailto:diane.lake@comcast.net) or [248-626-0222](tel:248-626-0222) to sign up or if you have any questions.

### Drop-in Bk Club: *The Invention of Air* Thursday, February 28 7:00-8:30 p.m.

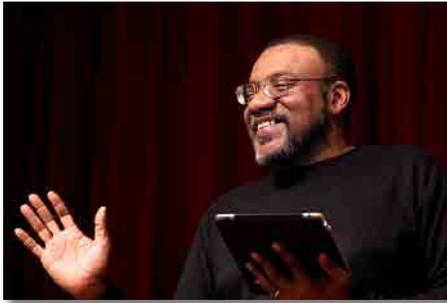
Steven Johnson is the best-selling author of seven books on the intersection of science, technology and personal experience, including, *Where Good Ideas Come From*, *The Invention of Air* and *The Ghost Map*. His writings have influenced everything from the way political campaigns use the Internet, to cutting-edge ideas in urban planning, to the battle against 21st-century terrorism. Steven was chosen by Prospect magazine as one of the Top Ten Brains of the Digital Future.

On March 5, 2009 Stephen Colbert interviewed Steven Johnson about the book on The Colbert Report. It looks to be an interesting read about a Unitarian during a formative period in this nation's history. View the interview on [Comedy Central](http://ComedyCentral.com). Everyone is welcome to join us on Thursday, February 28 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the room with the red door, across the courtyard from the main entrance. Any questions, contact [lisa.crawford@bucmi.org](mailto:lisa.crawford@bucmi.org)



## Service & Justice

In tribute to the inauguration, poet Kwame Dawes initiated a crowd-sourced poem project on public radio with these lines: "Say 'nation.' In the wake of quarrels, say 'hope.'" Dawes created the following poem using some of the many lines submitted by listeners. We are featuring it in this month's newsletter because of its themes of unity and perseverance in the quest for justice and well being for all.



Say "nation." In the wake of quarrels, say "hope."  
Be not divisive nor divided.

Say "neighbor." Say, "What can I do?"  
Doors open. Together walk through.  
In the hurly-burly of the day's governing  
remember the freedom of peace.

At the dawn of uncertain tomorrows, say "change."  
While darkness floods our spirit, say "light" and shatter  
all our scattering shadows.

Dream, "neighbor." In the face of fear, sing, "mercy."  
Hear unity from voices that speak.

Say that freedom, both the blessing and right,  
remain the provenance of open minds.  
Acknowledge the dreams that birthed a great nation — say  
"freedom."  
Speak it into action and watch our dreams reshape the future.

And heart in hand, for the sake of the young,  
of the old,  
of all those who  
wade thru injustice's tide, say "freedom."

Say and shout and sing!  
Progress is a storm and our voices the thunder.

Say "peace" for the hearts of a nation's people, in times of grief.  
Say one, say all. To abandon hope is to further the fall  
Say "take my hand" to the downtrodden, the lost.  
Sing harmonies that blend in a spectrum of love.

In the dark of failures, say "try"; encourage, persist to light.  
Say friend, my hand for your strength, your eyes for my light as  
we forward together.

Say hope is ours.

Wash away morose pessimism and the failings of the nascent.  
Remember our virtue; remember our lofty intent.

In the wake of the struggle, speak, so that together we all may  
speak courage.

Say "hope," eyes turned not to the gauzy sky  
nor to the brassy gates of power  
but to the frost-bitten grass beneath our feet.

I need to hear, again, those antiquated words  
in this new light.

## BUC Service Activities Survey

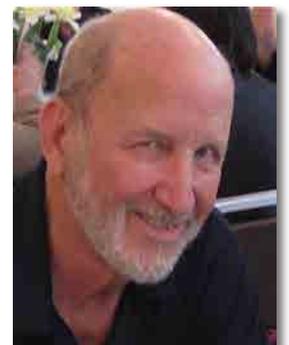
Thank you to the BUC members who completed the BUC Service Activities Survey. Results are being summarized and will be shared with the congregation during the next month.

## BUC's Plate Collection

Fifty percent of the cash from each Sunday plate collection is donated to a charity designated by the Plate Collection Committee. In February, the recipient will be with SOS ~ South Oakland Shelter, the organization which partners with BUC and other area churches to provide temporary shelter for homeless individuals and families. Funds collected will be used assist to clients in securing employment through advocacy and job training.

## Volunteer of the Month: Fred Straky

"I am mostly involved with facilities and grounds. I was on the Facilities Committee when it was established close to 15 years ago and was involved with the implementation of the All Church Work Day as part of the Facilities Committee program. I enjoy working with the members of the congregation, the committee and the church staff and it is particularly satisfying to see the results of the community effort on our various projects; especially knowing that in addition to building a strong sense of community it saves a bunch of money."





It has been a great start to 2013 in music at BUC. To begin, our new pianist Rudolfs Ozolins has graced our services and choir rehearsals with professionalism and sensitivity. Our first Sunday back in January, we celebrated Rudolfs' arrival with us and our dear Barbara Woolf's departure (as Kathy put it "six-foot move to the soprano section of the choir". There was cake for everyone. We are so glad he is on staff to help us uphold a high level of professionalism in music and to strive for more diversity, excellence and spiritual enlightenment through music.

with their hearts in rehearsal and there is never a dull moment. The more kids we have, the more marbles in the jar-- our ice-cream party is looking very promising! (ask us what this is about if you are curious!) Our door is always open for your singer Age 5 till 11 to sing Sundays from 10:35-11:10am.

## Chalice Choir

The choir has welcomed a few new and returning members, including Tom Raffel, Sue Filbin, Terry Love, Carole Winslow, and Carol Forrester (YOU are always welcome to try us out-no pressure) this winter and really enjoy making music and singing together.

We both love seeing everyone singing their hearts out during our hymns. We know that for many of you, it is fun to try new hymns and to let yourself be moved by the music.

We thank Christina Dragone for her spirited piano-playing on January 27th. On that service, the Teen Choir also sang "We Shall Be Free" in honor of the month's theme. Snaps for Emily Arnold and Ian Arnold for their song-choice and leadership.

## Kids Choir

Kids Choir has been having a blast learning new music and some important basics of singing well. These younger folks really sing

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming events include the 4th installment in our SoundBites Concert series: Indian Vocalist Geetha Raghu and her ensemble of tabla- and harmonium-players will perform Friday February 8th 7:30pm in our sanctuary. SoundBites continues to take us on a musical tour around the world and we hope you will join us!

As usual, always feel free to contact us with ideas and comments.



## January Board Update

The Board of Trustees of BUC meets on the 3rd Monday of every month. Here are a few highlights from the meeting on January 21st, 2013:

The church ended 2012 with \$20,000 more than budgeted, erasing a mid-year projection of a \$60,000 deficit. This was possible because of a number of factors: additional gifts and pledges from membership in response to the Board request; increased revenue from rentals; revenue from the Scrip program; reduced expenditures by committees. As the year goes forward, the Board and the membership of BUC will be asked to help close a projected \$80,000 gap between needs and financial resources for 2013.

An *ad hoc* committee of the Board, led by Lisa Demian, has started a process of identifying and prioritizing the needs of BUC with the goal of a Capital Campaign to restore and improve the church grounds and structure as well as the program of the church. Please take part in this conversation and process as we go forward.

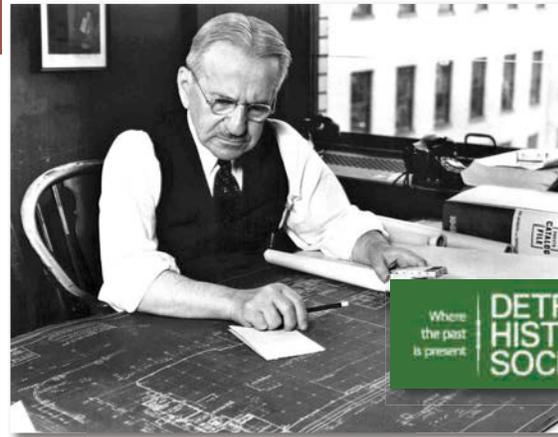
BUC can name up to three members to the scholarship selection committee of the Birmingham Unitarian Church Goldsmith Scholarship Fund established at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The scholarship, funded with a bequest from former BUC member Stuart Goldsmith, will be provided each year to financially needy, qualified Pontiac High School graduates.

This year the Board will undertake revision of the Church Constitution to reflect changes that have occurred with the adoption of Policy Governance. These changes will mainly involve the committee structures defined in the original document. The changes will be presented for discussion by the membership in the fall of this year and for a vote at the Annual Meeting in December.

Service' at BUC was the main topic of discussion for the meeting. Mary Jo Ebert and the Board discussed the results of the BUC Service Activities Survey, which will be shared with the membership. Mary Jo and Ilene Beninson will be engaging the church membership to help focus and define the service efforts at BUC.

## Charitable Gift Annuities

This is a great way to leave a legacy to BUC while benefiting from an income stream during your lifetime. Randall Ross of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan will explain details in a presentation on Sunday, February 24, 12:30pm in the Commons. Light lunch will be served. Call Jim Shettel in the church office (248- 647-2380) with RSVP.



## Alliance – February 20

A Detroit Historical Society speaker will present “Albert Kahn’s Architectural Legacy: The Ubiquitous Mr. Kahn” for Alliance at our meeting Wednesday, February 20. A Detroiter, Kahn was a world figure who revolutionized design of industrial buildings.

Our lunch at Noon, in the Pavilion, is a brown bag event, with Alliance providing cookies and beverages. The program will begin at about 1:00 p.m. in the Commons. Everyone is welcome!

There will be two more such lunches on March 20 and April 17, and our annual meeting on Wednesday, June 5. This traditional (catered) luncheon marks the end of our 2012-2013-program year. We do not meet in May but do work at Rummage April 28-May 4! Program brochures are in the pamphlet rack in the entrance foyer, outside the main office. Please join us at our gatherings.

## SCRIP News

Good news for BUCers who shop at one of the Hiller’s Market locations in West Bloomfield, Union Lake, Plymouth, Northville, Commerce Twp., Berkley, or Ann Arbor! BUC is now participating in the Hiller’s Scrip program. It’s easy to join—just stop by the Scrip table in the Social Hall and pick up a card. Then take it to the customer service desk at your local Hiller’s and add any amount to the card. The cards are already linked to BUC’s account, so each time you fill up your card, BUC earns.

Planning a trip this winter? You can obtain Scrip for all kinds of travel features, including gas, lodging, travel agents, cruises, and more. Or if a staycation is in your future, shop with Scrip for craft supplies, video rentals, movie tickets, and restaurants. BUC benefits from every Scrip purchase.



RE

## Children's Religious Education

March's rotation, Family & Community Duties, explores how our religion helps us share and move through the stages of our lives. Becoming an adult within a family or community brings on many new responsibilities. All adults have obligations to the family that they are born into as well as to the family that they create. Being an adult in a family or community means caring for others who are less capable, whether they are younger or older. It requires a higher level of commitment and personal sacrifice from an individual. This rotation asks: "Why is family and community so important?" and "What core values do they impart?" This rotation asks BUC's children to think about four different aspects of family and community life:



1. What are the jobs within a family? What are the roles and responsibilities that need to be carried out? How can I make a contribution within my family or community?
2. How do families & communities help prepare kids to go out into the world? What is the importance of rules & authority, manners & cooperation?
3. What are the different kinds of commitments that people make within families & communities? ( Ex: marriages/unions, caring for elders, raising kids)
4. How does our religion and our church support families and help them through their life's passages? How does our faith address diverse beliefs within a particular family?

Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE  
at [eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org](mailto:eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org).

## All Youth

• Bakeoff 2013 is on Feb. 10! Each group has its own responsibilities for food and volunteering, so please go to SignUp Genius for details and to sign up.

oUFO: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-bake>

oROPE: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-rope1>

oGUUSH: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-bakeoff>

• Questions? The UFO coordinator is Beth Lorey, the ROPE coordinators are Michelle Lakocy and Craig Stroup, and the high school youth can answer questions about GUUSH responsibilities

• Youth Sunday is March 17 and the planning has begun. All youth are invited to a planning session in Red Door on Feb. 3 at 12:30. Please bring your ideas and be ready to help shape the service. More sessions to be announced as needed.

## Youth Religious Education

The 6 & 7 class has started its second semester with a 4-week unit on Islam under the leadership of teachers Steve Lorey, Debbie Fordree, and Scott Farrar.

The 8th grade Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE)

High school class:

Relationships are a central, joyous part of most of our lives. However, they can also generate powerful, conflicting feelings within all of us at times. Yet most of us never spend a great deal of time looking at what we can and cannot control in relationships. Luckily, there are qualities and behaviors that a person can use to help guide him or herself in relationships when the feelings are overwhelming. The Recognizing Boundaries unit examines issues like personality responsibility, traits of healthy relationships, the differences between advice versus pressure, and the limits of our influence within another human being's life. Drawing heavily from UUA curricula such as the High School OWL program and the Feeling & Believing units, these workshops aim to provide BUC's youth with an introduction to concepts and behaviors that will allow them to objectively look at the patterns within any type of relationship.

GUUSH: February is a busy month. In addition to Bakeoff and Youth Sunday planning, we will be making plans for our Art Con (April 19 to 21 here at BUC). Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success, so please contact Kimery if you are willing to pitch in. Another important event is the annual Social Justice Conference, this year to be held in West Lafayette, Indiana. Register

at: <http://uulafayette.wordpress.com/2013/01/07/conreg/> Parent drivers and chaperones are much needed. Each year, this con offers a selection of carefully-planned workshops intended to deepen participants' understanding of social justice challenges in our culture and adults as well as youth find it to be a meaningful experience. Please consider joining our youth at this important event!

## Winter Class Options Offered by Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

Time and dates to be determined by the group

Please sign up by contacting Pamela McAlpin  
[pam.mcalpin@bucmi.org](mailto:pam.mcalpin@bucmi.org) see her in the social hall after services.

### Spirit in Practice –

This class will help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. Spirit in Practice affirms religious diversity while seeking unity in our communal quest for meaning and wholeness. Whether participants follow a path they identify as Humanist, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Theist, Atheist, Agnostic, Mystic, and/or any of the other paths we follow in our diverse congregations, this Spirit in Practice offers a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich their faith journeys.

This program will:

- ⊕ Nurture a deepening spiritual life and spiritual centeredness
- ⊕ Consider the value of spiritual practice, in any variety of forms, as a means to deepen faith and enhance the quality of everyday living
- ⊕ Explore possibilities for deepening experiences of spirituality in the context of a Unitarian Universalist congregation

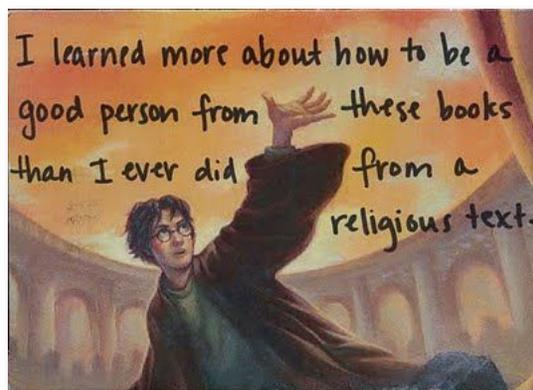
### History of the Bible

Though often referred to as if it were a single text, the Bible is a collection of writings composed and organized over centuries, often in the midst of intense political struggles. This class traces the myriad threads of Biblical composition and compilation, and moves into the current trends.

### Harry Potter and Religion

By the author's own acknowledgement, the Harry Potter series deals extensively with religious, even Christian themes—an ironic fact considering that some Christian leaders have denounced the series for glamorizing witchcraft. In this multigenerational class, we will consider the spiritual dimensions of the Harry Potter stories, see how they both echo and reinterpret traditional religious teachings.

(Image courtesy of [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) farm7)



## BUC Talent & Service Auction – Let's Do it Again!

BUC is THE place to be on Saturday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, for our Talent & Service Auction. If you attended 'Motown Market' in 2011, you'll remember the great fun we had bidding on the gift baskets, services and activities donated by our various church groups and individuals. With food and music inspired by Hittsville USA, the silent and live auctions were marked by high energy and lots of laughs.

Our theme will be different this year (more to come on that) but the goals are the same: raising funds toward the operating budget and building friendships and connections throughout the BUC community. Here are four ways you could participate in the planning and production of this memorable event:

1. **Share your hobby or skill by donating it for auction.** This can be anything you enjoy doing that would save someone time, frustration, or expense—like setting up Contacts on a Smartphone, doing yard work, custom cookie-baking, or pet-sitting. Your passion might be the answer to another person's problem as well as raise some funds—a feel-good all around! Click here to get a donation form.
2. **Host an event for others, such as cooking lessons or an in-home concert, as your donation.** Group activities are popular—they extend the fun of the Auction and help new members get to know more BUC'ers. Your donation form is here.
3. **Help out on the Auction Committee.** We've got a spirited core group who invite others interested in event planning, marketing, decorating, entertaining, etc. to join in. Please contact Marcia Mahood at [marciamahood@gmail.com](mailto:marciamahood@gmail.com). (Note: Online bidding will be added this year—Web skills especially welcome.)
4. **Buy an ad in the auction program.** This auction is all about getting to know each other better. Have your business support the Auction, and let BUC'ers know what you do! Click here for an ad form.
5. **Buy a ticket for the 23<sup>rd</sup> and bid your heart out!** Tickets will go on sale in early March, so save the date and you'll be glad you did!

## Pastoral Care Associates: Emergency Information Form

This is the Pastoral Care Associates annual invitation to you to complete the Emergency Information Form attached in this newsletter. Should you ever have an emergency, having returned this form to BUC would allow the Minister or the Pastoral Care Associates to contact a family member or the Patient Advocate Designee you identify to carry out plans you have made for your care.

If you would like this information to be on file at BUC, please fill out the form and mail, fax or return the original copy to the office. Know that this data will be kept confidentially in a locked file in the church office, and only the Minister and Pastoral Care Associates will have access to it. Additional blank forms are always be available in the church office and on Sundays at the Pastoral Care Table, and all new members are given the opportunity to complete an Emergency Information Form. If your information ever changes, please inform the office of such updates. Do keep a copy of your form in your own personal files. Remember to inform those you name that they have been so designated by you.

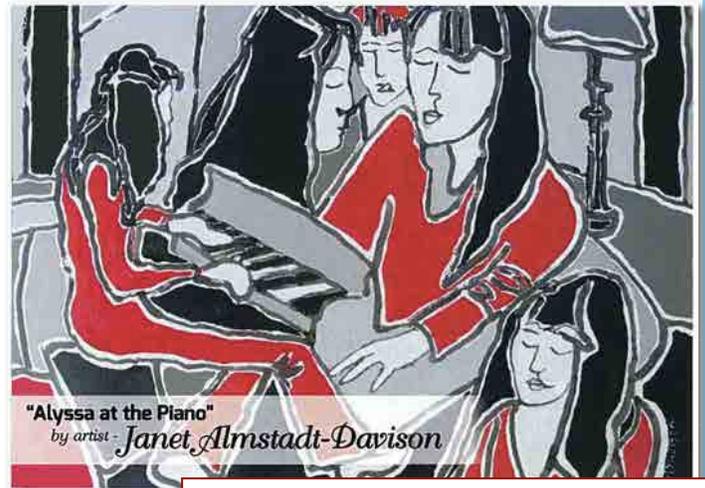
In service,

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, Senior Minister

Pastoral Care Associates - Lynn Bell, Joanne Copeland, Nancy Johnson, Don Johnson, Marie Miller, Dorothy Prier, Grace Rising, Alison Rule, Ed Sharples, Andie Stewart.

## Spring Rummage 2013 April 28-May 4

It's winter. It's cold. You're spending more time in the house. What a good time to look around and identify things you don't need and earmark them now for Rummage! Intake will begin on Sunday, April 28 and continue through Tuesday, April 30 at noon. Sale dates are Thursday night, May 2, Friday May 3, and Saturday, May 4. Sign-up will not begin until April, but if you would like to get involved, please contact Kimery Campbell about helping to plan this semi-annual combination fundraiser and community event!



### A Solo Art Show

by artist -

*Janet Almstadt-Davison*

**February 8 - February 27, 2013**

### Reception for the Artist

**Friday, February 15, 2013, 6-8 pm**

WITH LIVE MUSIC BY JOSEPH VARSANIK

**BUC Gallery** located at  
Birmingham Unitarian Church  
38651 Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034  
Enter off SB Woodward or Lone Pine Road

248-647-2380 / <http://www.bucmi.org/>  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 - 5, Fri. 9 - 3, Sun. 9 - 1



February 16<sup>th</sup> Ruth & Max Bloomquist, John Latini & Jamie-Sue Seal

8:00 p.m.

Doors open 7:00

\$12 regular admission      \$10 for students & seniors



2013 Free Educational Program Series

**Paid Advertisements February 2013**



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There is no greater investment than in yourself. Call for an appointment today.

**February 7: “Fracking: Oil & Gas Drilling in Michigan**

Rita Chapman & Nancy Shiffler; Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

**Program Format:**

6:30-7:00pm Light Refreshments, Social  
7:00-7:30pm Group Announcements: Calls to Action  
7:30-8:30pm Guest Speaker  
8:30-9:00pm Volunteer Sign Up, Social

Birmingham Unitarian Church  
38651 Woodward Ave Bloomfield

**Birmingham Unitarian Church**

38651 Woodward Ave  
Bloomfield Hills, MI48304  
On the web at: [www.bucmi.org](http://www.bucmi.org)