

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

January 2010

January Music at BUC

Our January 10 special guest musician will be Daragh Dutka. Daragh has been playing violin for 24 years, performing for 22, and teaching music in both private and classroom settings for 12. He has attended both Interlochen in Michigan and Orford Centre d'Arts in Quebec. As a boy he received honors for achieving Master (Champion) Status 9 consecutive years with the American Federation of Musicians. Between the ages of 10-12 he performed as a soloist in front of audiences of 3000+ for the annual St. Patrick's Day Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Detroit. Recently returned to the Royal Oak area, he has dedicated himself to building a school for the arts and an organic farm in the Lower Peninsula, in between teaching private lessons.

Currently he devotes all of his time to study, practice, and writing the business proposal his potential investors have asked for. Daragh is deeply honored to have the opportunity to perform for BUC, and encourages all Paths to the Universe/God that have respect for living things.

The Chalice Choir is scheduled to sing January 10 at both services, January 17 at the first service, and January 24 at second service.

Take 4, the quartet of Jim Bizer, Mary Jo Larson and Sue and Dan Boyce will also be singing for us on the 24th.

*Join us for Sunday Worship Services
9:30 and 11:15 a.m.*

The Welcome Inn Needs You!

The cold winter wind is blowing, and folks are out on the streets in Royal Oak waiting for a warm place to spend the day and have a hot meal. Located at 2500 Crooks Road (near 12 1/2) in Royal Oak, The Welcome Inn is a daytime warming shelter providing a hot lunch and a variety of social services for the homeless. Over the years, many BUCers have volunteered there.

Regular shifts are 6:20 a.m.-9:00 a.m., to help register guests; 9-1 p.m. including lunch preparation; 1-5 p.m., including serving lunch and clean up; and 5-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers also help with a variety of non-shift tasks. Annis Pratt needs volunteers on a one time basis to purchase and deliver needed supplies (BUC's needs network has a budget for this) she can let you know about.

Cash donations are desperately needed because of shortfalls during this economic downturn. Please make out checks to SOCH (South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless) and mail them to:

Attn: SOCH
St. Dennis Catholic Church
2200 E. Twelve Mile Rd
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Please use the following contacts: Report all activities to Annis Pratt avpratt@aol.com BUC Volunteer Coordinator 248 644-0737.

To Schedule Shifts: Ed Czerniakowski, Volunteer Coordinator welcominn.ed@gmail.com 248 885 4882.

To Schedule a small group or other BUC group for a casserole project: Mary Johnston mfjohnston42@yahoo.com 248 399-0935 or Laura Bolton 248 398-1193

Connections - Joys & Sorrows

- ❄️ The Memorial Service for Betty Page will be at BUC on Saturday, January 16 at 3:30 pm, reception to follow in the Social Hall.
- ❄️ Virginia Dickinson is back in the hospital and would greatly appreciate your thoughts and concerns.
- ❄️ Mary Lanphier's mother, Lorraine Miller, died at the age of 84 on December 29th. Our thoughts and wishes of comfort go out to Mary at this time.
- ❄️ Nancy McCuen has moved from Graysonview as she is no longer able to live independently. She moved to Nottingham Village on November 24th (her address has been changed to be her brothers address) P.O. Box 32, Northumberland, PA 17857.
- ❄️ We received notice of the death of Molly Tan Hayden. Molly used to attend BUC many years ago when she was a pathologist at Detroit General Hospital. She worked until her retirement as Vice Chair of Pathology and Chief of Hematopathology at Beaumont Hospital in Troy. She was deeply involved as an activist for Physicians for Social Responsibility. Donations, if desired may be made in her name to the above mentioned organization. (Contact BUC office for address)
- ❄️ Congratulations to Jeff McVeigh on his new job as General Counsel of GM China beginning May 1st. The family will follow sometime in August. Your BUC family will certainly miss you all.

An Invitation

If joined BUC in 2009, or visited BUC and may be considering membership with us, the Congregational Development Committee would like to invite you to please join us on Sunday, January 17 at 12:30 in the Commons for fellowship, sharing of our spiritual journeying and a midday meal. **Please RSVP by January 13** [children are welcome] to lisa.crawford@bucmi.org, or call and leave a message at 248.647.2380.

Needs Network

Thank you for the holiday gift donations for the Lighthouse. The need was great in these tough times. Your generosity helped to make the Christmas season brighter for families in the Pontiac area. Special thanks to Denise Newman for delivering all our gifts.

Nighttime warming centers: Volunteers are needed on Sunday, January 24 to wash the 100+ loads of laundry used by St. Mary's warming center. This is an early morning activity that has proven to be a pleasant, social volunteer gathering as well as providing a useful service. Participants can spend a flexible amount of time. Drivers will also be needed. Please contact Margaret Marsh by email – mmmarsh96@yahoo.com or by phone – 248-288-3411.

The Plate Collection Committee will be meeting on January 5 to decide which charities we will donate to in January, February, and March. If you would like to apply on behalf of an organization please go to the BUC website www.bucmi.org, fill out a Grant Application form and send it to Annis Pratt, avpratt@aol.com or pick a form up in the office today from the counter. Thank you.

Adult Religious Education

ARE is starting a discussion group titled "The Sacred and Profane". The first meeting will be at 10:30 AM on Wed. Jan 20, 2010. The purpose of the group is to bring together retirees and others who are free in the morning for informal and enlightened discussion on a variety of possible topics: Religion, Science, Current Affairs, Arts, Economics, Social Justice; you name it. Bring your own beverage of choice. Maurice Lefford will facilitate the initial gathering.

In the Interim

Rev. Marcel Duhamel



I'm addressing my remarks primarily to those among you who have been coming here for several weeks, months or even years and who have not signed The Book of Membership. (Others are perfectly free to read on.) I'm making some assumptions of course. If you are attending and participating regularly, there must be something about us you find appealing. You do know, don't you, that if you have not signed The Book, you are not a member.

What might change for you if you were to decide to sign The Book? Maybe not much. The issue, I think, is one of commitment. It's probably analogous to going from a living-with-someone relationship to getting married. For many, the change is certainly not dramatic.

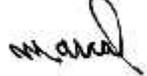
But change it is nonetheless. In tangible terms, the difference is voting privileges and eligibility for certain roles and offices. That's about it. It won't change the way you are treated or perceived. If you're a regular, we already expect a certain degree of the three "T's" --- Time, Talent and Treasure. At any rate, you will never be asked to give more of yourself or your resources than you can or want to.

Membership is, like formal marriage vows, a public disclosure and celebration of a relationship that already exists. If you want to be sure that Unitarian Universalism's voice and presence in Greater Detroit continues long into the future, your membership will help assure that.

Maybe there is something about us which has prevented you from taking the step to official membership. If there is, I would like to know what that is. (I'm not promising that anything will change, but you never know --- it might.)

If you like coming to church here, if you endorse the Unitarian Universalist way of being religious in the world, if you think we're on the right track to discovering the ever elusive sacred and holy, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss membership with you, at your convenience of course. I readily confess to being rather passionate about this. We'd sure love to count you as one of us. Officially that is, since we already do anyway.

Amitiés,



You're invited to Join BUC Sharing Dinners

We've had reports of some really great fellowship at the sharing dinners so far this year, and the good news is it's not too late to join the fun. More than 80 BUCers take part in these small monthly potluck gatherings held in members' homes. It's a great way to get better connected with your fellow BUCers.

Remaining dinners will be held February 13*, March 13, April 10, and May 8. Although you are encouraged to attend them all, you don't need to. You can even sign up as an alternate, to be called if a sub is needed.

You may be asked to host once if a previously committed host has to cancel; otherwise, you will be a guest at someone's home. Each month the names are shuffled so everyone gets to meet with as many others as possible. Contact Carol Lee carolallmanlee@yahoo.com 248-652-9427 to be included.

*The February dinner is an annual event at which all participants dine together at the church.

Alliance Presents Arabian Jewels

Happy New Year! Alliance welcomes everyone to our monthly programs. Our January presenter, Gloria Boddy (photographer extraordinaire), will bring us Arabian Jewels – a Photo Essay.

Arabian Jewels – A Photo Essay

Prior to our visit to the Persian Gulf the thought of traveling to the Middle East filled me with trepidation, but to go to a place called Arabia inspired my imagination. My imagination won out, and we set out on cruise in November 2008 that took us to four Persian Gulf countries: United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. Needless to say, I took a lot of photographs and gathered lots of impressions. Join me at noon on Wednesday, January 20, at the Alliance brownbag luncheon when I will have an opportunity to share some of them with you.

Gloria Boddy

This is our first (of four) Brown Bag lunches in the new year. They are at Noon – and Alliance provides dessert and beverages to go with the lunch you bring. The program begins at about one o'clock. Future dates are February 17, March 17 and April 21. In May, we observe Rummage (April 25 – May 1), and then have our Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 9, with a catered luncheon.

We hope to see you January 20 – Brown Bag at Noon, in the Pavilion, and program to follow in the Commons.

Thank you to each of you who contributed to Communities United

for Children at our holiday luncheon – for a very grand total of \$480! This will help Pontiac children who attend WHRC with special needs such as glasses and shoes.

Winter Sports Enthusiasts

It is time to plan our 20th annual winter sports weekend in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. This year's trip is scheduled for Friday, Saturday & Sunday, January 22-24, 2010. We invite BUCers old & new to join us in this annual event to have great fun, enjoy the beautiful Canadian trails & spend time together in a small group setting.

The weekend activities include, but are not limited to, cross-country or downhill skiing, snow-shoeing, swimming, jacuzzing, eating and drinking.

The hotel rates are \$119.00 Canadian per room per night plus taxes. We have already reserved 10 rooms for the group.

If this sounds like a great time and you wish to participate please make your reservations at Water Tower Inn 1-800-461-0800 and tell them you are with the Amir group so they keep us all together. After you contact them please email us so we can keep you posted with follow-up notifications. Questions can be addressed to Abe Amir at

aamir@wowway.com



Senior Minister Search Committee

During the months of November and December, the Senior Minister Search Committee has been very busy! The Unitarian Universalist Association has been forwarding the names of ministers in search who are interested in Birmingham Unitarian Church. Every minister also sends us their ministerial record. We carefully and thoroughly read each one, giving it respectful consideration. We then exchange even more detailed information packets and give those just as much attention. Our reading glasses are getting quite a workout. Telephone interviews are also currently part of our work. We really admire the ease with which the ministers face seven unknown voices and willingly and joyfully talk about their call to ministry, their faith, and even their ministerial skills.

And while we can't give you specifics about any one minister that has voiced an interest, we can say that they seem to be excited about us.

What we said in the 2009 Annual Report is worth repeating:

“But we are more than just the work. We have deepened our commitment to this church through this year of discovery. We have found joy and laughter (a lot of laughter) in our work together. We are each better at articulating our UU faith because of this search and your input. We are honored to be doing this work for and with you.”

Senior Minister Search Committee:

Matt Chope and Marilyn Mast, Co-Chairs

Judy Amir, Gregg Bloomfield, Dick Halsted, Teresa Honnold, Kym Worth



GREEN SANCTUARY

Learning Opportunity!

Looking for something meaningful to do once “cabin fever” sets in post holidays? Adult RE, in cooperation with Green Sanctuary, is offering one of the NorthWest Earth Institute discussion courses, “Menu for the Future”. The two day course will be held on Saturday, Jan 30th and February 13th, 2010 from 9 am to 4 pm. Dan Kosuth, chair of Green Sanctuary, will facilitate the course. Through readings from a course book and discussion, we will explore the connection between food and sustainability. Topics include:

- Food systems and their impacts on culture, society and ecological systems
- Agricultural and individual practices that promote personal and ecological well being
- Your role in creating or supporting sustainable foods systems

Cost for the course, including course materials, and lunch is \$40/ person. To register, email Dan Kosuth at dankosuth@yahoo.com of your interest. Registration will not be complete until the course fee is received. Registration will close on Sunday, January 24th.

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge base about this important topic and to interact with fellow BUCers, to say nothing of some good eats for lunch

How BUC members can obtain discounts on energy efficient appliances and lighting.

MiIPL (www.miipl.org) is a coalition of congregations in Michigan that have come together to promote energy conservation, renewable energy sources, and sustainable practices.

Because BUC is a member of MiIPL, church members are eligible for discounts on Energy Star appliances and energy efficient lighting.

There are two ways to receive this benefit:

1. Purchase Energy Star appliances from ABC Warehouse and, when making the purchase, ask for the MiIPL discount. Name our congregation if they ask.
2. Make purchases through ShopIPL (<http://www.theregenerationproject.org/shopipl.htm>). At ShopIPL you will find information about special pricing for purchase of refrigerators through Sears and a link to online shopping through Energy Federation Incorporated.

From Greensanctuary@lists.uua.org

“The Copenhagen conference had some great moments - the mere fact that the conference happened was ‘good news for many’ - but it was also a disappointment for many environmentalists. We still have a long, long way to go, to secure environmental justice for all of the nations in the world.

What next for Unitarian Universalists? There's a proposal called "Energy, Peace, and Justice" on the Congregational Poll.... If it succeeds, energy justice will become a major topic for Unitarian Universalists and we'll be able to focus a lot of attention on energy and environmental concerns for 3-4 years. I encourage all readers to talk with their congregations. Make sure that your congregation participates in the Congregation Poll. Vote in favor of the "Energy, Peace, and Justice" proposal. The deadline for votes is February 1st. The current proposal - if it's successful - will only bring "Energy, Peace, and Justice" to a General Assembly discussion. If the idea gets to the General Assembly, campaigning will be needed.

Thank you for your concern about global warming and other energy-related issues! With best wishes to all for happy holidays and a wonderful year 2010, Bob Murphy”

Musical Notes



Dining for Dollars

The first Dining for Dollars was a great success. Thanks to your participation, TGIFriday's donated \$320 to BUC, making our event the most successful Dining for Dollars ever at that store. Thanks to everyone who came out. We appreciate your support!

December Memories

We heard a variety of enjoyable music during worship at BUC in December. The first week featured the One Hour Choir, including the Youth Chorus, under the direction of Pam McAlpin, singing "He Lives in You" from *The Lion King II* and *In Excelsis Deo*. December 13, Chalice Choir sang *O Chanukah* and Pachelbel's *Magnificat* with Angelina playing harpsichord. Chamber Choir did jazz arrangements of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, *Up on the Housetop* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Louise Angermeier and Angelina played a four-hand arrangement of *Angels We Have Heard On High*. December 20th's prelude was *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, with Louise Angermeier and Angelina playing four hands at the piano again. The No Fault Orchestra, featuring over forty musicians representing all generations, delighted the congregation with excerpts from the *Nutcracker*, *Deck the Halls with Chips and Salsa*, *Sleigh Ride* and *African Bell Carol*. On Christmas Eve, the Youth Choir sang *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, led by Marshall Ross, and the Chalice Choir sang *Carols Around* and *O Holy Night*. December 27 Cathy Compton and Angelina played *Five Old French Dances* by Marais. Many BUCers were involved in making music in December. Thanks to you all for sharing your time and talent with your church family. We appreciate it very much and are very grateful for your commitment.

Other December News

On Monday December 21, Pam McAlpin and her family set off for Italy to visit their daughter, Kailey, who is studying abroad. They will take in the sights and be returning in early January. Then on Tuesday, December 22, Angelina Pashmakova's daughter was married at an intimate family ceremony and celebration.

Music Volunteers

Do you have a musical talent to share? We are looking for special music to enhance our services throughout the year. Whether you sing or play an instrument, alone or with others, your church would like to hear from you - the more variety the better. There has been some discussion among the staff whether people read the newsletter. If you have read this far, please stop by the music desk for a kiss, (Hershey's that is)! We are now scheduling into February and March. If you have a musical talent to share with your church family, please contact me at cyndi.peltonen@gmail.com or call my cell phone 248-259-7318.

Suggestion Box

We are so fortunate to have many talented musicians working together, both staff and volunteers, to provide high quality musical offerings during worship services. To support our quest of continuous improvement, we would love to hear your candid feedback. We have a music suggestion box on the table in the foyer. Please let the music staff know your impressions, thoughts, and ideas on how we can make the music program at BUC even better!

BUC is a Welcoming Congregation

As we start a new year, I would like to thank you all for making me feel so welcomed at BUC. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a talented and dedicated staff, supported by an amazingly dedicated and talented cadre of volunteers. I am happy and proud to call BUC my new church home!

No Fault Orchestra & One Hour Choir



Thank you for giving us your time and talent during our December services this year. It was a joy to be able to conduct you. Any music still outstanding should be turned into the music office. Again, thank you

and keep those vocal chords, fingers, and lips in shape for next time.

Pamela McAlpin
Conductor

Youth Chorus

Great job in December! Special thanks to Marshall Ross for conducting the Christmas Eve service, while I was in Italy. Second semester chorus will begin on January 17th. This is a great time to join in the youth chorus. We meet downstairs weekly from 10:45-11:15. Kids in grades 1-7 are welcome to come sing with us.

Happy New Year!

Pamela McAlpin
Youth Music Director

pmcalpin2001@hotmail.com

**at MAMA's Coffeehouse,
Saturday,**

Open Mic at 7:30 p.m. Show at 8:00.

Admission \$12, \$10 for seniors and age 18 and under. Refreshments available. Call 248-569-0965 for more information.

Social Justice and Outreach

Learn how to

- handle **conflict and controversy**
- become a **better listener**, and
 - an **effective voice for peace**

Join a four-part workshop to help us better address the conflict and controversy encountered in all aspects of our lives – family tensions, workplace dynamics, politics and hot-button issues around the water-cooler or in the public forum. Drawing on our own life experiences and knowledge, we will develop the tools needed to become both better listeners and more effective voices for our thoughts and views, laying a foundation, as positive, neutral peacemakers, for bridging the gap between opposing points of view.

Trainers Joe Jenio and Laura Bassier Stopczynski have many years of experience in conflict management and dispute resolution. Principals in the Fenton-based firm, Alternative Dispute Resolution Consortium (ADRC), they are Michigan State Court-approved trainers in general civil and domestic relations mediations. Currently, they conduct Master Conflict Resolution Specialist Certificate programs at UM-Flint, Macomb Community College, and Schoolcraft College.

Reservations (required) questions please contact: Pat Hammer (248.644.6568) or patriciajhammer@gmail.com

Sponsored by: the Social Justice Committees of BUC and Paint Creek UU Congregation, and the Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)

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Name (s)	
Address	
Phone/Email	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full \$98 <input type="checkbox"/> Sr / Student \$88	Payment enclosed:

*Please make check payable to:
Birmingham Unitarian Church ("Peacemakers" in the memo line),
Send to:
BUC 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills MI 48304 ATTN: Peacemakers Workshop*

Peacemakers

Approaching Controversial Issues as a Positive Neutral

Monday evenings in March

6:30 – 9:30 pm

March 1, 8, 15, 22

38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills,
Michigan 48304

Series of 4 workshops: \$98

Seniors (62+) and Students (15+): \$88



Children & Youth Religious Education

Eleanor McGuire, Director of Religious Education for Children

Youth Classes resume on Sunday Morning Jan 10.

The February's *Death and Beyond* rotation is part of a larger objective of sharing with our children how our religion helps us through our life passages. Death is an emotional and complex topic for children but one that needs to be openly & gently discussed, especially in a safe and supportive place. This rotation introduces the idea of the legacy each person leaves behind. It explores that those who have departed live on in the memories and hearts of the living. It continually refers to death as the "next place" we are all going, wherever or whatever we believe that experience will be. It asks: "How do other religions view death?" and "What practices do people have to help them feel connected to their dead or departed?" It explores four perspectives on death:

- Re-incarnation – What do some Buddhists and Hindus believe happens to a person when he/she dies? What does it mean "to join with the Universe?" What does it mean "to live another life?"
- Heaven & Hell – What do some Christians, Muslims and Jews believe happens to a person after he/she dies? What is Judgement Day? What do UUs believe about a person's legacy?
- Ancestor Veneration – What is the significance of the Day of the Dead holiday? Who is being welcomed back?
- Cemeteries & BUC's Memorial Glen – Why do so many people find spiritual connection at the site where their loved ones are laid to rest? How do significant objects or places help us feel close to those who have died? Why do some people find comfort in nature?

BUY Coffee/Tea, Tshirts and Cards from our ROPE and GUUSH youth groups! See tables in Social Hall in January. All proceeds benefit youth group activities, especially the ROPE Boston Heritage Trip. Thanks.

Youth Groups

6th and 7th grade Youth Group, **UFO** (Unitarian Friendship Organization):

- Events 2009-2010 -- organizers in parenthesis: **Rock Climbing** (fitzner); **Gleaners** (Wendell); **Detroit Bike Shop** (Askari); **Lazer tag** (Arnold); **Ropes Course** (Ross); **Sharing Dinner** (Crawford); **Mini golf** (?); **Water Park** (?); **Book club** (Crawford); **Relay For Life** (fitzner); **Greening of Detroit** (Fordree); **Penny War** (UFO). Stay tuned for times for these events. As the organizers set them up, the whole of UFO will be informed!
- Whirly Ball event JANUARY 17. \$15 register via email ellndave@yahoo.com.
- **Archery** event: February 7. More information about the event coming in January.

The Eighth Grade Youth Group: **ROPE** (Rite of Passage Experience):

- Kickoff MEETING AND LATENIGHT 6p – 12mid Jan 9. Session One & parents meeting 10:30a Jan 10.

- Fundraisers for ROPE occur in the Social Hall (Thanks for your support, the group needs to raise \$11,000 to fund the Boston UU Heritage trip). **Fair Trade Coffee Sales**

High School Youth Group: **GUUSH** (Great Unitarian Universalist Senior Highers):

- Meetings **6:30p Sunday nights**, Red Door – for all 9th – 12th grade youth, every Sunday
- **Tshirts fundraiser** – in January, in Social hall
- **Sock-Hop sock-raiang event** Feb 6th. Planning and prep in January.

UFO (Unitarian Friendship Organization – 6th & 7th grade Youth Group) presents...

An All-Church **Penny War!** to benefit the Australian Koala Fund and the American Wildlife Federation protection of Polar Bears. **MALES vs FEMALES**. The Rules: All pennies collected are positive (+1 each). Silver coin (nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars, coin dollars) = -1 penny. Paper bills (\$1 & up) = -10 pennies.

- Add pennies to your jar. Your goal, as a male or female, is to see your group get the largest number of pennies.
- Losing pennies: Groups can take away from their rivals' jar by adding silver coin or paper dollars to detract from pennies.

Be aware the effort is also to raise significant funds for these organizations, so don't hesitate to thwart your opponents with dollars in their jars. Have Fun!



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Contact: Ken Kauffman at

1-248-914-1122

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Birmingham Unitarian Church
