

BUUC

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: Liberation

Our worship theme for the month of January is liberation, the process by which individuals and societies move from a state of oppression and limitation towards freedom and the possibility of love. When and where in your life do you experience yourself as not free, as bound in by fears, the demands of others, unresolved loss, old sorrows? How do we move towards freedom—through our own efforts, through the aid of others? When and how have you been an instrument of liberation for another? The January services delve into these questions.

January 6: “I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free” – On this first Sunday of the New Year, Kathy and Worship Associate Gregg Bloomfield consider the ways in which we are actually not free, and the ways in which we may believe ourselves, mistakenly, to be limited. What contributes to illusions of lack of freedom, and how can we be liberated from those powerful illusions?

January 13: “Voices That Challenge” – How often does your usual life routine bring you into contact with others who may be oppressed, who need your presence and efforts to help them be free? This multigenerational service, led by Kathy, Worship Associate Judy Amir, and Lifespan Team Member Pamela McAlpin, looks at the community beyond our church walls to see where liberation is deeply and desperately needed.

January 20: Rabbi Tamara Kolton, formerly of the Birmingham Temple and a student of the late Rabbi Sherwin Wine, joins Worship Associate Frank Arvan in a service exploring traditional stories of liberation and how those inspire us today.

January 27: “The Land of the Brave, the Home of the Free” – Sometimes freedom comes to us as a gift, and sometimes we are challenged to work for it, to plunge into a struggle for liberation. Kathy and Worship Associate Ed Sharples look at the actual work of liberation, what it involves and how we engage it, and why.



Mark Your Calendar

On January 27, the Stewardship Committee invites you to celebrate the progress we have made toward our 2013 budget goal. After each service, join us in the Social Hall for some appetizing morsels and drinks.

February 1: FFFFF Contra Dance (see page 3)

February 8: SoundBites Presents North Indian Classical singer Geetha Raghu, joined by tabla and harmonium for an evening of Ragas and melodies.

Church Office Announcement

The church offices will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year (December 25-January 1). Wishing all of you safe and happy celebrations and much joy in the coming New Year.



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.

Thanks to the \$10 seed money that BUC gave out to each household at our November 18th service, the Mariner's Inn at Cass and Ledyard in Detroit has started a fund designated for their garden which provides therapy for the men who seek assistance with the abuse they suffer. (Carole Wiseman)

Joy - Barbara Robinson is home following surgery at Beaumont. All tests are negative.

A sorrow: Please keep Marie Stanley, sister-in-law of Stephanie Greer in your thoughts. She was recently diagnosed with bone cancer.

Joy - Gail Rouse's niece has been signed to a three book publishing contract.

BUC member, Carey Wendell who works at the Beverly Hills Academy a Islamic Montessori School, shares: our community suffered the death of one of our primary students. Please keep us in your thoughts.

Kate Safford celebrates her 5th year survivorship anniversary on December 28. Randy Safford celebrates his recent acute appendicitis surgery success, and shared his joy that he was well enough to play the tuba for the No-Fault Orchestra on December 23. Congratulations to Kate & Randy on celebrating their 12th anniversary this month.

Jim Clark celebrated a milestone birthday in December. Congratulations on staying such a young man!

Ryan VanKlompenburg accepted a position as Assistant Engineer with the Chip Ganassi Racing Team in Indianapolis, Indiana. Congratulations! While we are sad to see you leave BUC we are happy your dreams are being realized. Best wishes to you and Nicole.

Those who signed our Membership Book in 2012

- ⊕ Joseph Sim & Holly Helterhoff 1/22/12
- ⊕ Lynn & Ben Bennett-Carpenter 1/22/12
- ⊕ Doreen & Tom Murphy 1/29/12
- ⊕ Pamela Varma 1/29/12
- ⊕ Mike Greiner 3/11/12
- ⊕ Kerrie McMillen 3/18/12
- ⊕ Brad Williams 4/22/12
- ⊕ Nicole & Ryan Van Klompenburg 5/13/12
- ⊕ Sally Dobkin 6/21/12
- ⊕ Clarence Walsh & Shannon Harney 7/11/12
- ⊕ Ruth Lyons 9/9/12
- ⊕ John Crissman 9/16/12
- ⊕ Bill Palazzolo 9/23/12
- ⊕ Cheryl & Scott Somers 9/23/12
- ⊕ James Lewis 10/7/12
- ⊕ Sarah Reynolds 10/7/12
- ⊕ Tom Raffel 10/7/12
- ⊕ Tessa Benziger & Matt Herrmann 10/28/12
- ⊕ Rita & Jerry Miller 11/11/12
- ⊕ Christopher Davis 11/11/12
- ⊕ Susan Darlington 12/2/12
- ⊕ Charles Smith 12/19/12

If you have been attending BUC for a time and would like to know more about membership as a deeper level of commitment to this community, please look at our Membership Path Brochure in our literature racks outside the office, in the Pavilion or online at www.bucmi.org>About

The Next "Getting to Know UU" Session is Tuesday, January 22 from 7:00-8:30 in the Commons. Please join us for our second session "Sharing our Spiritual Journey." (Previous attendance is not necessary to attend this session. Come as you are available.)



Getting Involved: Support & Affinity Groups, Film Buffs, Sharing Dinners

Grief Group – Tuesday, January 8th

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

Friday Food Faith Fun & Fulfillment – February 1

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](#).

It's Not Too Late to Join Sharing Dinners

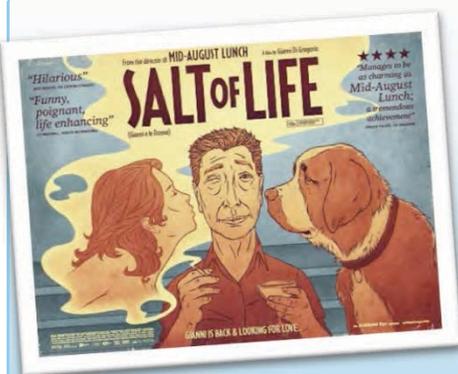
If you've been hearing about the Sharing Dinners and wish you had signed up—it's not too late. You can still join the nearly 100 BUCers who take part in these small monthly potluck gatherings held in members' homes. It's a great way to get better connected with your fellow BUCers.

Remaining dinners will be held Jan. 12, Feb. 9*, Mar. 9, Apr 13, and May 11. 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 needed; 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.

*February's dinner is held in the church Social Hall. The hosts of this evening will host a table. Everyone is invited to attend.

Film Buffs: "The Salt of Life" January 18



"In his warm and witty follow-up to the 2010 sleeper hit *Mid-August Lunch*, writer-director Gianni Di Gregorio has created another sparkling comic ode to the ladies in his life – but this time he plays a middle-aged retiree who has become invisible to all distaff Romans, regardless of age or relation. Watching his “codger” friends snare beautiful younger women on the sun-kissed cobblestones of Trastevere, Gianni tries his polite, utterly gracious best to generate some kind of extracurricular love life – with both hilarious and poignant results. In Italian with English subtitles." -DFT Winter 2012 Film Guide

“★★★★! A tremendous achievement. Every bit as charming as *Mid-August Lunch*.” -Jay Weissberg, *Variety*

The *Salt of Life* (Italy, 2011, 90 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.

Reflections by the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



With the turn of the calendar to the New Year, we are invited to turn the page of our lives to a new chapter, to experiment with new ways of functioning, new behaviors, to explore new possibilities. Many organize such a new chapter into New Year's resolutions that set forth intentions for change. And alongside those resolutions comes the awareness that we are likely to falter, and often, in sticking with the change the resolutions invite.

Rather than strictly focusing on what and how I want to be different in the coming year, I sometimes find it more helpful to adapt a management tool called "Start–Stop–Keep" for organizing New Year's resolutions. This tool suggests that I begin by noting patterns or behaviors that I want to carry on with in the coming year, what I want to keep that is presently part of my usual way of functioning. Keeping those elements in my life becomes part of the resolutions. Then I identify unhelpful patterns that I want to stop, and discontinuing those behaviors becomes another part of the resolutions. Finally, I move to the new elements, the more traditional kinds of New Year's resolutions, that I intend to start incorporating into my life. By using "Start–Stop–Keep" I seem to come up with more creative resolutions, less of my usual laundry list of things I need to do that almost invariably invites my resistance because the list looks so daunting.

Another variation on New Year's resolutions was offered by Marilyn McEntyre in Weavings magazine, in which she suggested that each day for at least one month I begin by asking, "What can I share today?" or "What do I have that might be given away?" Rather than the simple resolution (which then becomes so difficult to actually live into) to be less consumer-minded and more community-minded, this daily practice makes that sort of spiritual shift become possible through concrete and simple questions on a daily basis. McEntyre further recommends a household kind of New Year's resolution in the form of a commitment to being a "steady-state household," meaning that if something new is brought into the household, something else has to leave it, to go out or be given away. Again, the resolution of learning to be less consumer minded gets implemented in specific and manageable steps that make success in keeping the resolution more likely.

Whatever your approach to New Year's resolutions, may you experience them less as grim disciplines and more as invitations to live more freely.

Faithfully, Kathy

Stewardship 2013 Update

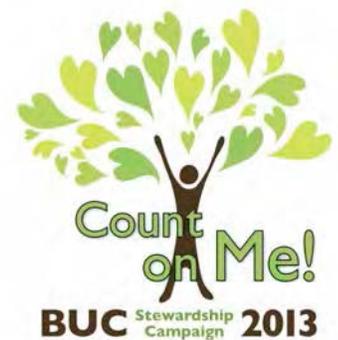
As 2012 nears its end, here's an update on pledges for the 2013 budget:

Of an estimated 290 individuals and households, 239 have pledged \$444,000 so far (average pledge: \$1890). With the \$11,400 pledged to a Matching Fund, created to encourage members to increase their pledge over last year's pledge, a total of \$455,400 has been pledged. The entire Matching Fund was dedicated to the 2013 budget, thanks to the generosity of 140 members who responded to the drive with an increased pledge.

The entire church should be very pleased with the generosity of the members who have pledged so far and hopeful that the members and friends who have not yet made their commitment to the church for 2013 will step up to fill the gap that remains. The church has set a goal of \$582,000 from pledges for the 2013 budget year. If the remaining 50 or so pledge an average of \$2500, we will meet our budget goal. Realistically, what this means is that there may be a secondary request for pledges early or mid-year.

Please contact a member of the committee if you have any questions or concerns.

Submitted: The Stewardship Committee - Dick Cantley, Walter Dean, Mary Jo Ebert, Barbara Eschner, Mary Gawal-Ensroth,



Recycle your Holiday Lights!

Bring your busted holiday light strands to BUC and Green Sanctuary will send them to be recycled. Look for the collection bag in the office during January. Holidayleds.com of Jackson, Michigan recycles light strands and will provide a 25% off coupon for their products to each participant. So don't toss those frustrating tangles non-working light strings - bring them to BUC and be green!

Discussion Groups @ BUC

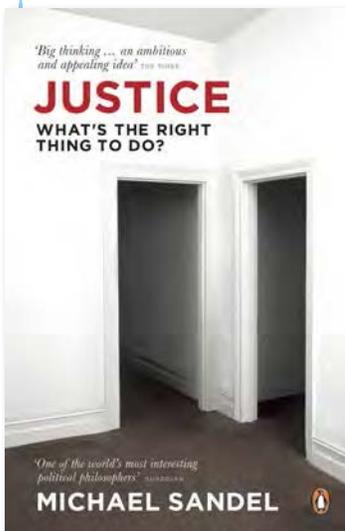
Science for Everyone

The next meeting is on Tuesday January 15, 2013 at 7:30 PM in the large conference room when we will discuss "Infection: the Seed and the Soil". This is an open discussion group so everyone (not just scientists) is welcome.

Sacred & Profane

The next meeting is on Wednesday January 16, 2013 at 10:30 AM in the large conference room. There will be a TED talk by Sarah-Jayne Blakemore titled "The Mysterious Workings of the Adolescent Brain", followed by a discussion. If you are interested in either mysteries, adolescents, or brains be sure to attend! This is an open discussion group, so everyone is welcome.

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.

The first discussion will begin on Sunday, January 6 at 9:30 in the Commons and focus on the first chapter. Diane Lake will facilitate. 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 or [248-626-0222](tel:248-626-0222) to sign up or if you have any questions or just show up on Jan. 6th.

Words and Spirit

The new year is always a good time to think about starting a new spiritual practice. These two 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.

Jan. 7 – Spiritual Conversations; Poetry and Reflection

This month the group will be looking at poems and prose writing about “liberation”. 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.

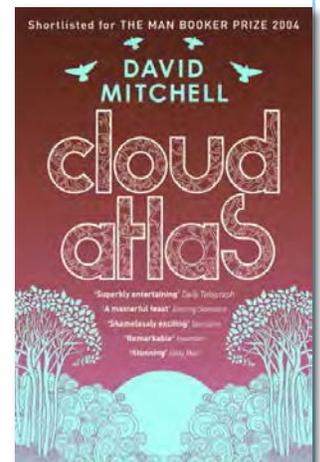
Jan. 21 – Journal Writing as a Spiritual Quest

This group will also be writing about the theme of “liberation”. 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. Group open to beginners and pros alike. Sharing is always optional. Bring your journal, a pen and a willing spirit.

Drop-in Book Club: Cloud Atlas

Join us for this fascinating read by David Mitchell on Thursday, January 24, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Red Door Room. This book was recently a major motion picture with powerful cast.

“*Cloud Atlas* is a novel composed of six interlacing narratives, each one housed within the next, so that the first is a book read by a character in the second, the second a series of letters cherished by a character in the third, the third a populist novel being considered by a publisher in the third, and so on. To fully realize this Russian-doll experiment Mitchell divides each tale in half and places them, sandwich fashion, at opposite ends of the book. Thus the opening narrative is the last to be concluded, the second the penultimate, etc. At the centre of the novel lies the indivisible doll, an unbroken post-apocalyptic tale wrapped fivefold. Despite this symbiotic, intra-textual concept, further emphasized by the unifying themes of recurrence and predation, each narrative stands as a novella in its own right.” Book Drum – Beyond the Page



Service & Justice



Thank you to the many BUCers who participated in the Holiday Adopt A Family program and gave gifts for Lighthouse. You helped to make the

holidays more enjoyable for many families, including several BUC families.

Updates

Regional Transit – Major Milestone Achieved!!!

On December 6, the Michigan House passed legislation to establish a Regional Transit Authority (RTA), and Gov. Snyder signed it into law on December 20. During the next 90 days, members of the RTA Board will be appointed from each of the participating counties and the governor's office. Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties will participate. Washtenaw County was also named in the legislation, and they are considering whether they want to participate. Once appointed, the RTA Board will create a citizens advisory committee consisting of public transportation users, representatives of senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and individuals representing business, labor, community, and faith-based organizations. BUC will continue to coordinate with MOSES and other transportation advocacy groups to influence this important project for our region. For more information, contact Pat Hammer or Mary Jo Ebert.

The Welcome Inn

"I am very grateful for all the volunteers as well as people who have donated to the organization so that people like me, who are currently in a tough spot, will have a warm place to stay during the day. And eat good, healthy food. I had no place to go. If it wasn't for these people at the Welcome Inn I would of been out in the streets."

If you would like to make a donation, please go to <http://www.S.O.C.H.> or send a check to

SOCH P.O.Box 1937
Royal Oak, MI 48068

With the added space at Starr Presbyterian Church (1717 W. 13 Mile Road Royal Oak, on the corner of Crooks and 13 Mile Roads) comes the need for more volunteers! We need BUCers to

cover weekly shifts, buy and deliver supplies, sit and talk with the guests, prepare meals both at the site and at home, and perform a variety of other vital tasks. Drop by at The Welcome Inn table which will be set up in the Social Hall between services and talk to Annis Pratt about what you can do to help, or contact her at avpratt@aol.com. or 248 644-0737

BUC's Plate Collection

Sunday plate collection proceeds during January will be shared with The Welcome Inn. The South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless sponsors this program, which keeps an average of 350 people every winter sheltered, fed and connected to job opportunities.

Upcoming Events

January 21, 8:00 a.m. – "Lest We Forget" ~ 21st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, The Community House, Birmingham

Keynote speaker: Silas Norman, Jr., MD, Assistant professor and Associate Dean, Wayne State University. Dr. Norman was one of the Freedom Riders and worked with Martin Luther King, Jr. The Courville Concert Choir will perform. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at www.tchserver.org or 248.644.5832.

January 27 - St Mary's Warming Center

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, January 27 to wash 100+ loads of laundry. This is an early morning activity that has proven to be a pleasant, social volunteer gathering while also providing a useful service. Participants can spend a flexible amount of time. Drivers will also be needed. Please contact Margaret Marsh at mmarsh96@yahoo.com or 248-288-3411.





It is with deep appreciation and love that we say an official goodbye to our beloved Barbara Woolf as pianist and accompanist. Of course she will be singing with the choir, will be assisting with services as available and she will be around as a wonderful resource. Thank you, Barbara, for delaying your retirement for us!

Kids Choir

The Kids Choir sang a couple of times during the holidays. These little singers have been learning music-reading, lots of vocal technique and have been enjoying music and rhythm games. What a talented group!

Chalice Choir

The Winter music scene at BUC has been one of tradition and renewal. After much hard work, intense rehearsal for the BUC Chalice Choir and thrilling collaboration, Handel's oratorio masterwork, the Messiah, came to life in our sanctuary. Almost 60 singers and a stellar orchestra of ten instrumentalists came together on the Baroque choruses and solos to help our congregation kick-off the holiday season. Special thanks to our resident BUC-players Grace Brockett, Walter and Lillian Dean, and Andrea Thorne--they volunteered their beautiful playing and we could not have done it without them! One of the highlights was the finale: the Hallelujah Chorus. Parishioners were on their feet and joined in the singing. January brings new opportunities for singers to have their voices heard. The doors are always open to new members for our BUC Chalice Choir.



The SoundBites concert series kicked off the season with the Bernard Woma Ensemble's vivid, thrilling performance of original and folk music of Ghana. Our sanctuary was alive with people dancing joyously as the driving music kept people on their feet for most of the night. The delectable treats and wine afterwards capped off the event nicely. Mark your calendars for February 8th when North Indian Classical singer Geetha Raghu is joined by tabla and harmonium for an evening of Ragas and melodies.

This January, we welcome our new pianist Rudolfs Ozolins. Steve has been working with him, trying to prepare him for our special style of worship. He is a remarkably gifted musician and he is eager to share his spirit and talents with us.

Save the Date – Services Auction, March 23

Dinners out, play tickets, boat rides, tennis lessons, cooking classes....is your social life in need of rejuvenation? Well, we have just the solution for you. Save the date of Saturday, March 23rd for the upcoming BUC Services Auction You are guaranteed to be able to bid on all sorts of fun things to do with fun people - your fellow members of BUC. The Services Auction is held every 2 years, and is a major fundraiser for our BUC community. Please plan to attend and be festively feasted and entertained. Stay tuned as more exciting details will be revealed in the New Year.

Interested in joining the committee? The next meeting is Sunday, December 9th at 10:30 in the large conference room. There are big jobs and little jobs to do - all that's required is enthusiasm mixed with a sense of humor! Questions? Please contact marciamahood@gmail.com.

Photo Search

The Services Auction committee is looking for photos from past service auction events. Did you offer a service or item? Do you have photos with fellow BUCers from the Motown Market 2011 events? If so, please email to marciamahood@gmail.com or barbara.eschner@att.net. Thanks so much for your help.

Alliance

In January we return to our regular schedule of program meetings on the third Wednesdays of the month. Mark your new calendar to attend our gathering on Wednesday, January 16. Bring your brown bag to the Pavilion, where we will eat at Noon. Alliance supplies beverages and cookies! We will have an important program from Common Ground, which has been helping people in Oakland and Genesee Counties for more than forty years. Their core purpose is "to help people move from crisis to hope." It's 24/7 helpline is only one of the agency's important services. This 501(c)(3) organization operates from seven locations. Come and hear more on January 16th!

SCRIP

BUC is now a member of the **Kroger Community Rewards** program. To participate, register your Kroger Plus card at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Once you have registered yourself, you will receive a confirmatory email message. Follow the link in the email to sign up for BUC's program using our non-profit enrollment number: 91407. Please note that this is a 2 - step process. You must first enroll online at the Kroger website AND follow up with the link in the email that you receive from Kroger to choose BUC as your Kroger Community Awards Organization. Please be sure to use the number 91407 when searching for BUC as Kroger has BUC misspelled in their system.



In addition, we also have paper gift certificates in \$10 and \$20 denominations available for **Hollywood Markets**, with stores in Royal Oak, Troy, Bloomfield, Rochester Hills, Madison Heights, Lake Orion, and Shelby Township. Please stop at the Sunday morning Scrip table to pick up a supply of certificates before you head to Hollywood to shop. Need different denominations or a large dollar amount of gift certificates? You may pre-order Hollywood Certificates for delivery on Sunday in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 or \$100 denominations.



Contact Kim Ruiz with the denomination and amounts that you would like at kim.ruiz@bucmi.org.

Questions about SCRIP? Contact BUC Scrip Coordinators: Kimery Campbell kimery.campbell@bucmi.org Kim Ruiz kim.ruiz@bucmi.org Eleanor McGuire eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org



Common Ground

helping people move from crisis to hope

24 hours a day | 7 days a week | Crisis Line | 800.231.1127

We Listen, We Care, We Help





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Children's Religious Education

Over time, many Unitarians and Universalists have brought insightful perspectives to emerging issues. This is due in part to the beliefs of early Unitarians & Universalists, who felt that the Kingdom of Heaven described in the Bible could be attained here on earth, created through mankind's inherent gifts of reason and conscience. Accordingly, this Influential Unitarian Universalists rotation examine the lives of several, sometimes controversial, UUs whose actions exemplified our faith's principles. This rotation asks two questions: "What new ideas did these UUs espouse?" and "What changes were these UUs speaking out for?" This rotation will introduce BUC's kids to several famous UUs (both men & women) while focusing in particular on these four social justice areas:

1) Religious freedom & innovation - This class includes a brief examination of the core ideas of Unitarianism and Universalism through the lives of the men who first introduced these beliefs in America, Joseph Priestley and John Murray, respectively.

2) Peace - This workshop examines Julia Ward Howe's efforts to create the first Mother's Day, a day for mothers to unite & work for peace.

3) Abolitionism - This workshop looks briefly at the friendship of Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson

these two men while focusing mainly on their mutual support for abolitionism.

4) Tolerance / International emergency relief - This class explores the key events in Clara Barton's life that helped her become one of the pioneering advocates for emergency relief for all, regardless of political or religious affiliation.

Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE
at eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org.

The 6 & 7 class will begin the New Year with a two-week look at animism and other African religious practices. Then, on January

Youth Religious Education

27 will begin the new "semester" by beginning a 4-week unit on Islam. Thank you very much to our first semester teachers: Steve Lorey, Laura Burleigh, and Gaelan Campbell-Fox.

All 6-8th grade youth are invited to CONnections, the junior high youth conference at People's Church in Kalamazoo, Jan. 25-27. Whether you are a Mystic Lake regular or you have never attended a "con," I encourage you to make the trip across the state. We need adult chaperones and drivers, so I encourage parents to join in the fun. This will be a weekend of games, art, workshops, youth worship, and more, all at the newly renovated and flat-out beautiful Kalamazoo church, which is in itself worth the trip. Register today at: www.midamericauu.org.

The 8th grade Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE) class will kick off on Saturday, January 5 from 6 to 11 p.m. with a "Late-nighter" during which the youth will be introduced to the program. The next day class will begin at 11:15. (ROPE is second service only.) After class, ROPE parents are asked to meet with DRE Kimery Campbell for a brief review of the Boston trip.

High school class: coming to terms with loss and death is an intense and lingering spiritual challenge. January's Acknowledging Death workshops will focus on the grieving process as well as some of the ideas about "the next place" that influence our reactions to death. Notably, these workshops will have a tone of intellectual inquiry more than a focus on personal introspection, in keeping with what can be addressed within the limits of a typical Sunday morning class. Moreover, due to the recent events in Connecticut, these workshops may be postponed until later this spring. Any decision to delay this unit would involve input from the youth. Here is a brief overview of the workshops and ideas comprising this Acknowledging Death unit:

Why do human beings share a universal set of reactions to death? How does the grieving process help an individual move closer to accepting loss and death? Why was Elizabeth Kubler Ross a proponent of hospice? Why has ancestor veneration been important across so many cultures over time? How do Americans honor their dead loved ones? How do we stay connected to their spirits? How do our ideas of "the next place" influence our reactions to death? What is the purpose of funerals and memorial services

GUUSH: Yes, it's true! There IS a con in January! CONcord, a friendship-building high school youth conference, will take place from January 11-13 at People's Church in Kalamazoo. Register at www.midamericauu.org. Parent drivers and chaperones are much needed, so adults, please sign up, too. This is your opportunity to make connections with others from across our district, not to mention getting to visit People's Church and see what's happening across the state!

If you are not receiving regular email updates about youth events, please send your contact information to Youth DRE Kimery Campbell at kimery.campbell@bucmi.org

MAMA's Coffeehouse January 19 – Juggernaut Jug Band!

- The Social Hall at BUC
- General Admission is \$12. Seniors (62 and over) and those under 18, \$10. Children 12 and under free.
- Shows begin at 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:00
- Shows begin at 8:00
- Volunteers receive free admission! Please e-mail MamasCoffeeHouse@ameritech.net if interested.

band bio

What do you get when you blend jazz, blues ragtime, swing and original music with washboards, washtub, kazoo, jugs and various other sundry hardware? Nothing less than the strange concoction called the JUGGERNAUT JUG BAND.

While members of the band are accomplished musicians, "They don't let virtuosity get in the way of having fun." (Washington Post) Each performance is a challenge to the audience to have as much fun as the band. Don't let their antics fool you though. Their exuberant music is the result of skillfully conceived arrangements and unique vocal harmonies.

[read more](#) and [about programs](#)



Artist, James Kasperek Reception Friday, January 18 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

James Kasperek studied art at both the Columbus College of Art and Design, and the Center for Creative Studies, and has been painting seriously for over 35 years. He has worked in most mediums including oil, watercolor, graphite and gouache, but pastel has been his dominant medium since the early 90's. He's predominately a landscape artist, and works exclusively on black sanded paper. His inspiration comes from capturing the effects and movement of light and shadow, and how it may influence the vibrancy or subtlety of color throughout a composition.



Sunday, January 27 4:00-5:30 p.m. 2013 Fourteenth Annual World Sabbath Sunday

The Bharatiya (Hindu) Temple 6850 North Amas Rd, Troy, Michigan 48098 will be hosting an event led by their youth and young adults. A service with peace prayers from different faith traditions and the children of peace of many religions. This ethnic dance and music event will highlight the diversity of metro Detroit! The Rev. Richard Peacock will be receiving the 2013 World Sabbath Peace Award. This event will be followed by an afterglow from 5:30-6:30 p.m. including an opportunity to participate in an interfaith mosaic tile project. For more information visit www.wordsabbath.org or call Gail Katz at 248-978-6664.

BUC Paid Advertisements – January 2013

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Call 248-320-9651 or email echarris1962@gmail.com



Debbie Stroup
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Happy New Year!

Birmingham Unitarian Church

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