



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



Sunday Services – Emptiness

9:30 and 11:15

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 on second Saturdays Jan. 11, Feb. 8*, Mar. 8, Apr 12, and May 10. 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; 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.

*At the church in the Social Hall.

**January 5
Town Hall**

**Service & Justice Town Hall
– 12:30 in the Sanctuary.**

Our January worship services take up the strange theme of emptiness, a theme that can be found in varied spiritual traditions, often presented as an ideal way of being, a theme that carries decidedly troubling associations when it characterizes our daily lives. How do we bridge that gap, so that some of the difficulties which accompany an emptiness which comes with loneliness and despair are transformed into the freedom and lightness of emptiness that spiritual traditions encourage? In the beginning of a new year when all that lies before us is still shrouded in darkness, we settle into a month of emptiness through words, music, and reflection.

January 5 - "In the Beginning": The Biblical account of creation describes all reality as coming into being from emptiness, a void. How can a state of emptiness lay the ground for creativity in our lives? Kathy and Worship Associate Kristi Fielder consider emptiness as a necessary beginning for whatever might be coming next. Music provided by Rudolfs Ozolins.

January 12 - "Betwixt and Between": Sometimes we move into a period of emptiness as part of a transition, so it becomes a moment to rest in the course of change. Kathy and Worship Associate Paul Vachon look at the places and times of resting and what all is happening when it seems nothing is happening at all. Music provided by the BUC Chalice Choir.

January 19 - "The End of the World": Sometimes we willingly overthrow our lives in order to get a fresh start, and sometimes our lives are overthrown for us, without our wanting it to happen, and we have no choice but to start over. On this Sunday before the marking of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, Kathy and Worship Associate Gregg Bloomfield reflect on the emptiness that comes in the wake of upheaval, when everything must be rebuilt and we are challenged to make the rebuilding better than what came before. Music provided by the Sound Messengers and the Chalice Choir.

January 26 - "Emptiness Is What Your Soul Wants" - A sermon on Sufism, with a look at the Sufist emphasis on emptiness and *nfs*, the psychodynamic dross that becomes an impediment to emptiness and access to the Divine, from Dr. Alexander Riegel. Dr. Riegel is the Founder and Director of Return to the Mystic, a center for inter spiritual study and practice, and also the Founder and Director of Mystic Poet Circle, a subsidiary of Return to the Mystic. Dr. Riegel has over 20 years' experience in Unitarian Universalist ministry. Worship Associate Grace Rising conducts the service.



Picture by Unwinding, Source: Flickr

BUC's Solstice Event, December 21 picture Stefanie Bair



Sylvia Whitmer hosts a staff holiday meal



Snow friends in the courtyard.



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.

From Mary Jo Larson: "On December 29th 'Rene finished her 90+ years of loving acceptance of all who came within her circle, of passion for life and family, of joy in music... While she was still aware, we were able to share all of your loving messages. She was mystified about how much she meant to so many, but she glowed in the warm words. She heard your love and it buoyed her and us. How lucky we are to have such friends and family. A memorial service will be held at BUC on Friday, January 3 at 11 a.m. Love to everyone."

Juanita Cervenak fell the day after Thanksgiving and sustained a lacerated right eye and a broken right wrist. She is well on the road to recovery.

Ilene Beninson has purchased a home with her son Michael in Ann Arbor and will be looking for employment there. For some time Ilene will travel between the AA church and BUC. Ilene says, "BUC will always feel like my UU home, but over time I imagine the AA church will find a place in my heart. Thank you to all my BUC friends and family."

Marilyn Kelly's husband Donald Newman is home recovering from his recent surgery. He wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes.

The Arnold family wished to share their great joy in celebrating Kathy's 50th birthday on December 8!

From Kathy Ransome: "Please send healing thoughts and prayers to my brother in law, Paul Wright, who is battling prostate cancer and going through a variety of treatments."

From Kay Rittinger: "I'd like to thank our wonderful BUC family for all your love and support during my recent hip surgery and recovery."

On the winter solstice, Robert Mohr and Donna Larkin Mohr celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary!

Along with her siblings back East, Barb Eschner is trying to use the holidays to celebrate the life of their mother, Mary Eschner, who died suddenly last month. All the special music at BUC is helping. "Mom would have loved the Chancel Choir's Schubert Mass. Thank you!"

From Larry Larson: "I'm so grateful to my doctor and hospital for clearing a 99% blockage in my coronary artery. It was my best Christmas gift ever!"

Dick Nelson celebrated his 70th birthday on December 30th—Happy Birthday ☺

Our housekeeper, Kitty Ayer's father (and custodian Jason's grandfather) Robert Noel died on December 27 following an extended illness.



Getting Involved: Town Hall, Grief Group, Warming Center Laundry

Sunday, January 5: Town Hall Meeting – Service & Justice

Your Board of Trustees invites you to attend the final Town Hall in the series designed to discuss the capital needs of the church. The final Town Hall will be presented by the Service & Justice Committee. This is part of our upcoming capital campaign and YOUR input is critical. The Capital Development and Prioritization Committee will use your comments and critiques to develop and prioritize the list of projects that will make BUC more effective, efficient and appealing to current and future members.

Tuesday, January 14: Grief Group

An open grief group meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Small Conference Room (left of the main entrance in the Religious Ed hallway). Whether you have had a recent loss or one from some time ago – you are welcome in this group. Dropping in for one meeting, or coming every month is fine. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. If you have questions, contact Grace Rising gbrising@wowway.com 248-250-6500

Annual Warming Center Laundry Project – Sunday, January 26

We will pick laundry up at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Royal Oak - Lafayette just north of Lincoln - between 6:30 and 6:45 am and use the Laundromats at 14 Mile and Main (Livernois) in Clawson. Laundromats open at 7a.m.

We could use some larger vehicles for pickup but hatchbacks and station wagons work well. We are likely to finish at the Laundromats - depending on how many volunteers we have - by 10 or 10:30am and will need to return the laundry to St. Mary's. Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's has been doing the warming center shelter for at least 20 years. Some of their group has changed, but the shelter keeps running. They are especially grateful for our help because by the time they have finished, they are exhausted at best.

Contact Margaret Marsh if you are able to assist in this event at mmarsh96@yahoo.com

Film Buffs: Friday, January 17 “The Class”

Join us in the Commons at 7:00 p.m. – Snacks provided ☺

"A school year in the life of 14- and 15-year-old students and their teacher in one high school classroom in Paris. Based on his own 2006 novel, Francois Begaudeau plays a variation of himself - humorous, self-aware, dedicated teacher Francois Marin. His classroom is a cultural and intellectual mix of the diligent and the troubled with director Laurent Cantet rejecting a clear narrative in favor of fly-on-the-wall dialogue and situations. French with English subtitles." - VideoHound's Golden Movie Retriever 2012. The Class (France, 2008, 128 minutes) was rated PG-13 by the MPAA. For more information contact Larry at LJWisniew@yahoo.com or (248) 569-0965



Reflections

the Rev. Dr. Kathy Fuson Hurt



And so we turn the page to another year, resolved to make it better than the one just past (or, if the one just past was a good year for us, hoping the coming year will match that goodness), resolving to be a kinder, more patient, thinner, healthier, more productive person that we have ever been before.

The beginning of a year is one of the few dependable times of liminality that our culture brings us anymore. Sociologist Victor Turner studied liminal times and defined them as periods of unusual fluidity, when the rules and structures that typically govern our experience are suspended. For at least the first couple of weeks of January, we have a liminal time that began during the holidays when customary ways of functioning were permitted to be set aside so we could be in the holiday spirit, and that liminal suspension seeps over into January with resolutions to change and beginnings that are still too new to have settled into a definite shape and style.

We have become accustomed to accepting that change is all about us, happening all the time. But the kinds of change that are briefly possible during a liminal period such as January and the start of a new year are deeper, more radical in nature, spiritual kinds of change. If you could be utterly different in some way, a way that usually would seem impossible, what would that difference look like? Try it out before January is too far along, and see what happens. Do not see it as a resolution, an act of will to be different, but a playful kind of experiment that may, or may not, be worth continuing.

Happy New Year! May 2014, in its liminal beginnings, show us ourselves and those around us in an utterly new light. May we take to heart Benjamin Franklin's observation that "when you're done changing, you're done." May we not be done just yet.

Faithfully,
Kathy

BUC Family Fund – Thank You!

A heartfelt thanks to all who responded to the invitation to donate towards gifts for some of our BUC families who are struggling during this holiday season. Thanks to your generosity, we collected nearly \$1500, enough to provide a cornucopia of gift cards to the recipients (and even keep a few dollars to set aside for special congregant needs in the New Year). Those receiving the gifts are grateful and deeply touched by this way in which we care for our own church family.

Volunteer of the Month: Penny Hackett-Evans

I am very honored to be honored this month. My volunteering lately at BUC has fed my own spirit enormously. The Sunday morning worship is probably the most important aspect of the church for me and I am delighted to be a part of the team that works with Kathy to create those offerings. I am also enriched by spending Monday nights with a wonderful group of people who like to be together to share writing, poetry, discussions and reading. Then there are the further groups that enjoy being together to explore art as a way of finding spirit, and the new group of people who come together quietly in the evening to meditate. We in this church are so blessed by the many ways we have of being in community. That is why I attend BUC. It is my spiritual home, my tribe, my beloved community from which I gain SO much. I find that the deeper I get involved by volunteering at the church, the more deeply I feel connected to the whole. I truly feel blessed to be given the opportunity to volunteer here.

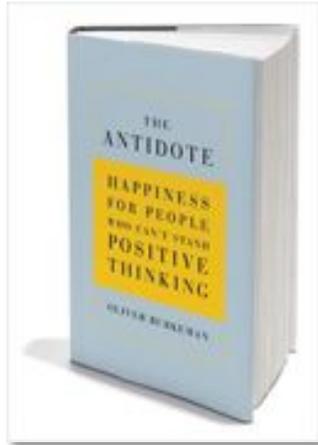


Create, Think, Listen, Discuss, Meditate @ BUC

Sunday Morning Book Discussion

We will begin meeting again on Sunday, January 12, when we will start to discuss *The Antidote: Happiness for people who can't stand*

Positive Thinking, by Oliver Burkeman. We will discuss the book chapter by chapter for eight consecutive Sundays, with Maurice Lefford as facilitator. The contrarian views of the author, and his satirical approach will provide material for lively discussions. The book is available in paperback and e-book forms. We meet at 9:30-11.00 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. All members and friends of the church are welcome (even if you don't read the book).



Writing as a Spiritual Practice, Monday, January 20

This group meets in the Blue door 7:30 - 9:00 on Monday, January 20. We will be writing on the theme of emptiness. Contact Penny Hackett-Evans (Evansph2@wowway.com) for more information.

Art & Spirit Group, Monday, Jan.13

This group meets in the Blue door 7:30 - 9:00 on Monday, January 13. Bring a blank journal and art supplies. Contact Penny Hackett-Evans (Evansph2@wowway.com) for more information.

The Alliance in the New Year

Happy New Year from all of us in Alliance. We look forward to seeing you as we begin our 60th year!

Our first program meeting of the year will be Wednesday, February 19. (Note we will not meet in January.) We will have a very special speaker and program. The Imam of the IAGD Mosque in Rochester Hills will speak about understanding Islam and Muslims - their theology and some traditions.

This event will be a "brown bag" lunch, at noon in the pavilion. Alliance provides beverages and cookies. The program will begin at about 1:00 p.m. in the Commons.

Everyone is welcome to attend! Also for your 2014 calendar, we are planning to visit the Detroit Historical Society on Wednesday, April 16, details to be announced in February.

Sacred & Profane – January 15

The S&P discussion group will meet on Wednesday, January 15 at 10:30 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. The topic is "What Do You Like About BUC and What/How Could We Improve?"

Monday Meditation Group

Monday night meditation - continues to meet in the blue door from 6:00 - 7:15 every Monday evening. Open to new and experienced meditators. Drop in or regular attendance is fine. Contact Penny Hackett-Evans (Evansph2@wowway.com) for more information.

Spiritual Conversations; Poetry & Reflection, Monday, January 6

This group meets in the Blue door 7:30 - 9:00 on Monday, January 6. Bring a poem or reading on the topic of "emptiness". Contact Penny Hackett-Evans (Evansph2@wowway.com) for more information.

Estate Planning by Debbie Fordree, January 12

At 12:30 in the Large Conference Room, there will be a meeting so mark your calendars! On January 12, following second service, Debbie Fordree will be hosting a talk on how health care powers of attorney, wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other estate planning documents can assist with planning for a disability and end of life planning. Q and A to follow.

Service & Justice

We Made Spirits Bright!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored families through our holiday adopt-a-family program and donated items for our Lighthouse collection. We made the season brighter for 52 families (Wow!) at WHRC Elementary School and numerous people at Lighthouse! Thank you to Mary Cay Dietz, Ilene Beninson, and Margaret Marsh for their coordination and to everyone who donated gifts. Thank you, also, to all who donated cash and gift cards for support of BUC families.



We look forward to kicking off the New Year with these two inter-generational service projects. Watch for more information at Sunday services and through regular BUC communication channels.

Welcome Inn Opens Needs Your Help

The Welcome Inn is a daytime warming shelter in Royal Oak which BUC has supported for many years. It is provided by the South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless at Starr Presbyterian Church (13 and Crooks) and is open from 6:20AM to 8PM from December to March. Your BUC Welcome Inn Volunteer Coordinator is Annis Pratt (avpratt@aol.com, [248 644-0737](tel:248-644-0737)). Right now, we need volunteers for the following tasks:

- ✓ Make a onetime purchase of needed items like medicines and clothing and deliver it either to the Inn or to the church. You can bring your receipts to the church office where you will be reimbursed from a fund budgeted to the Needs Network.
- ✓ Prepare a casserole or, better still, gather a group at your home (like a small group, fraternity/sorority, etc) to prepare four or five. These are done from set recipes, which will be sent to you when you have established a date. The casseroles need to be delivered to the Inn.
- ✓ Help the Social Worker with her tasks, or provide medical assistance with the Nurse.
- ✓ Sign up for a couple of hours a week to be at The Inn and help with serving lunch and other tasks.
- ✓ Cash donations are very welcome. Please make out checks to S.O.C.H. and mail to S.O.C.H., P.O. Box 1937, Royal Oak MI 48068

“Here’s how a guest feels about her time at the Welcome Inn: “Thanks for all your help I don’t know what I’d have done without your help. Everyone here was kind to me and helpful even when I was pretty stressed out. God Bless you all.”

Please contact Annis about any of these activities. Every small act of kindness provides a spark to light up this sorry old world. Here are some of our intrepid BUC volunteers:



Chess Anyone?

We’re recruiting chess players for an after-school chess club at WHRC Elementary School. A few years ago, the chess club had enthusiastic participation by students and we’d like to restart it. Volunteers are needed in other roles too tutors, classroom assistants, cafeteria monitors, book trolley workers, etc. Contact George Lentz or Mary Jo Ebert.



Service Projects for All Ages

Two service projects are being launched in January that will enable BUC children and youth to serve our wider community, with participation from the adults.

Blessing Bags: Youth will assemble bags to be distributed to homeless people, containing items such as a compact blanket, gloves, toothbrush & toothpaste, snacks, and gift card for a sandwich or coffee shop. Adults who wish to receive a blessing bag to carry in their car and give to a homeless person who they pass by on the road or sidewalk will sign up in advance. Supplies for the bags will be provided through donations and service & justice budget.

Food Pantry Collection: Supplies at local food pantries are running low due to the increased demand in food resulting, in part, from cuts in SNAP benefits. Each Sunday, before the children leave the sanctuary after the Children’s Corner, they will collect food donations from the people present at the service. A list of most-needed items will be provided to the congregation.

January Plate Collection Recipient

The January recipient of our plate collection is the Welcome Inn, which is featured in this newsletter. Any BUCer can recommend a plate collection recipient. Complete an application at www.bucmi.org. Click the "Give" tab, then "Plate Collection Application."

BUC Service & Justice Co-Chairs: Mary Jo Ebert, Sharon Kirchner

Service & Justice Resources:

MUUSJN (Michigan UU Social Justice Network):

www.uujustice.org

UU Service Committee (UUSC): www.uusc.org

Save the Date Feb. 21 ~ Multi-Church Women's Celebration

Calling all women 15 and over – please save the date of Friday, Feb. 21 for our bi-annual women's dinner event. This year will be called "Weaving a Web of Women" and will be an evening of supper, conversation and a worship program with women from BUC, Paint Creek UU and Emerson Church UU.

Happy New Year From Your Green Sanctuary Committee

With the New Year, we look back at the steps that Birmingham Unitarian Church has taken on behalf of our beloved planet. Here's what The Green Sanctuary Committee has accomplished in the last six years:

- ✓ In 2007, we received an assessment report of our energy use from Michigan Power and Light (MiPL).
- ✓ In 2008, we did the preliminary design and planning work for a geothermal heat pump for the Social Hall.
- ✓ Between 2009 and 2010, we replaced our single pane windows with double panes and added insulation to rooms where there had none before. Also, we upgraded our lighting to LEDS (light emitting diodes) in the Sanctuary and changed fluorescents to T-8s (a smaller diameter).
- ✓ In 2011 we received an estimate for implementing a geothermal/HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning) system for the Social Hall.
- ✓ In 2012, after an eight-year effort, we received Green Sanctuary status from the Unitarian Universalist Association. This involved bringing an environmental perspective to a broad reach of church activities, as well as making the technical improvements listed above.)
- ✓ Between 2012 and 2013 we did regular maintenance on HVAC to ensure the most efficient operation. Also, regular maintenance was begun on our water heaters to insure their efficiency.

2013 was a busy year for the Green Sanctuary Committee.

Through Michigan Power and Light's Solar Aggregation Project, we received a Solar Proposal for Birmingham Unitarian Church from Srinergy, a solar installation company.

DTE performed an energy assessment/consultation for us, replacing some 60 lamps with CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps), and wrapped the uninsulated water heater piping.

We conducted an Earth Day Service and collected a variety of wishes for environmental improvements at BUC from the congregation, which we have begun to implement (see last month's newsletter).

We established a Green Sanctuary page on BUC's Facebook page.

We developed a Power Point Presentation for a Town Hall Meeting to present our hopes to install Solar Panels and a Ground Source Heat Pump.

BUC Music

Kids Choir

Kids Choir sang on Christmas Eve and did a lovely job on a tricky, traditional "Carol of the Bells". Many musicians and church folks gathered for Christmas Eve services and a potluck in between, to share fellowship and enjoy time between services and rehearsal!

Chalice Choir

The musicians at BUC have been busy this Winter. The Chalice Choir worked hard to prepare for and finally present Schubert's Mass in G on December 15th, accompanied by a stellar group of instrumentalists. Very special thanks to the excellent musicianship and camaraderie donated by Lillian Dean, Walter Dean and Andrea Thorne. The Chalice Choir sounded wonderful supported by your contributions.

The soloists really shone in this renowned and respected piece of music. The choral ensemble was tight and their preparation made for an expressive, confident performance. Many congregants and visitors sent Abha emails of congratulations-it was a thrill to bring this project to fruition. Rudolf's piano-playing for the services was beautiful, but let's not forget his accompanying during rehearsals for the Schubert-he was invaluable in helping the choristers know their parts!



Looking ahead, come and join the Adult Chalice Choir!!! January, we start fresh--all new music, no experience necessary. The congregation has been singing hymns with new abandon this Fall and Winter--we want your voices to shine MORE by singing in the choir.

SoundBites

February 14th SoundBites concert features the Music Staff of BUC joining forces for an evening of music on the topic of LOVE. Plan to bring your sweetie.



BUC's House Band: The Sound Messengers

The Sound Messengers presented songs about forgiveness and holiday reflections in December. Special appreciation to Brian Schandavel for donating his drumming expertise and awesome work-ethic to the band. Bandleader Steven has been working hard to gain more understanding of the needs for electronic balance in our sanctuary. Thanks to Hannah Scott for her engineering help. This will continue to improve in January.

Happy New Year, all, and may your 2014 be filled with more great music!



Children's Religious Education

February's Death and Beyond rotation explores how our religion helps us handle this fundamental stage of life. Death is an emotional and complex topic for children. Yet it needs to be discussed openly, in a safe and supportive manner. This rotation introduces ideas such as the legacy that each person leaves behind. It explores how 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 loved ones who have passed on?" 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 Judgment 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?

Please contact Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE, with any questions at: eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org

Youth RE

The New Year will bring a new element to the 8th grade Coming of Age program: the beginning of our ROPE (Rite of Passage Experience) class. The class will kick off Saturday, Jan. 4, from 6-11 p.m. The session will include dinner and an introduction to the advisors and the components of the program. The next day,

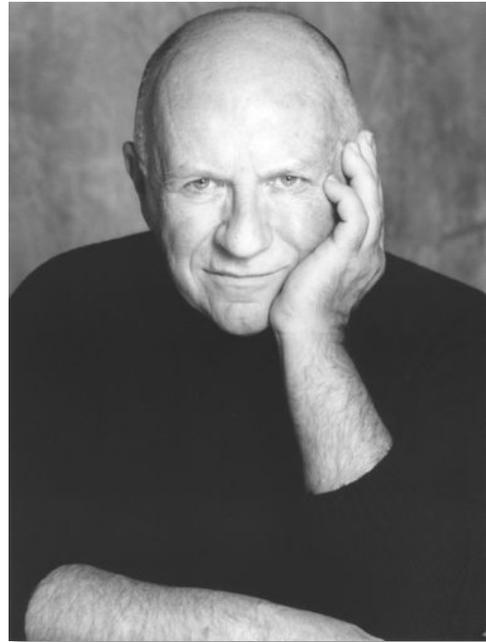
the parents will meet with DRE for Youth Kimery Campbell at 12:30 to discuss parental commitments to the program, including the financial aspects of the annual UU Heritage Boston trip.

The 6&7 Neighboring Faiths class took an interesting turn in December. Instead of the usual look at a specific Protestant denomination, the teachers introduced new material that delved into the historical roots of Christianity, including a look at the life of Jesus. Originally conceived as a three-week program, the curriculum expanded to include an in-class Advent service. In January, they will wrap up the program by learning about the Protestant Reformation and origins of Unitarianism and Universalism before launching a new curriculum on non-Buddhist Asian religious practices. In UFO, we hope to continue the great service initiative we began on Dec. 8 with our fleece blanket project. Thank you to all the BUCers who donated fleece and funds and to the parents and older youth who pitched in to help.

In January 2014 the Sunday morning high school class will continue its exploration of virtues, both old and new.

GUUSH Co-Facilitator Julia Wendell reported that in November, "GUUSH invested the money in our social justice fund, which was collected last year during youth Sunday plate collection. We split up the funds between NESK (North End Soup Kitchen of Flint) where we were a day sponsor and got BUC's name on their hall of fame; SOS; Gleaners; Freedom House; Greening of Detroit; and Communities United for Children (WHRC). We chose to give to these organizations because of GUUSH and BUC's connections to these organizations and the wonderful work that they do." In further group activities, the GUUSH youth were, for the second year, proud sponsors of a family as part of the WHRC Adopt-a-Family program. Through canny shopping, they found uniforms and gifts for a family of five boys. The youth are looking ahead to more social and service events in 2014—please watch your emails or the GUUSH Facebook page for details.

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. You can



MICHAEL SMITH at
MAMA's Coffeehouse
Saturday, January 18, 2014, 8:00pm
Admission \$15 (\$13 student/senior)

His songs are so resonant in layers of myth and magic, and so perfectly enhanced by the genuine beauty of his melodies and instrumental arrangements, that you can listen to a single one over and over for an afternoon and feel satisfied. *Song Talk Magazine*

"Michael Smith stands out as one of the few undisputed geniuses among singer-songwriters." *Sing Out! Magazine*

In addition to his evening concert, Michael will present a two-hour songwriting workshop from 4:00 to 6:00pm. Anyone interested in songwriting (at any experience level) is encouraged to attend. (\$25/person, limited to 20 people.) Contact Jim Bizer for more info: jb@jimbizer.com or (248) 626-4650.

Young Adults Game Night Friday, January 3rd!



Friday, January 3 @ 7pm

At the home of Amanda Phillips and Matthew Canterbury

71 Douglas Drive, Bloomfield Hills, 48304

Bring your favorite card/board game.

Pizza will be served, so please bring \$5 if you intend on partaking.



Please consider signing up to sponsor or bring flowers for one of our upcoming Sunday services. It adds so much to the worship experience, and is a lovely way to honor someone's birthday, to say "Thanks!," or to remember someone dear to your heart. The link to sign up is on the landing page of the website in the center column. (Isn't that beautiful! You could be someone's secret admirer ☺)



AND, while you're there... click on the link for Sunday hospitality and take a turn making coffee, ushering, or greeting on a Sunday morning. We need your cheerful volunteering to make BUC the welcoming place it is to our visitors and to our BUC family and friends. Thanks!

**Monday, January 20:
MOSES 17th Annual Banquet**

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
6:30 p.m.

Burton Manor
27777 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia

Guest Speaker:
Ambassador Carol Mosley Braun

Tickets available at www.mosesmi.org or contact Mary Jo Ebert or Sharon Kirchner.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Image Charles Rex Arbogast, AP

Explorations School for Young Learners



Explorations School for Young Learners - Program Director, Geri Ruggles and Kim Ruiz, Licensee Designee

December was a busy month for the Toddler Program at BUC's preschool, Explorations School for Young Learners! The children had fun listening to stories, making crafts and having special treats for Hanukkah, St. Lucia Day (celebrated in Sweden and Norway), Diwali (celebrated in India) and Christmas as they explored celebrations around the world. Some days were especially festive with glitter everywhere! We are looking forward to discovering more about our world when we return in January, and our activities will focus on winter and the animals in winter. Playing in the snow will be an important part of our "research"! We still have a few openings in the Young Explorers Toddler Program.

On the business side, the State of Michigan has issued new licensing requirements for all child care facilities that go into effect on January 2, 2014, so we are currently working to update our paperwork and processes to be in complete compliance by the end of 2013. We have also started completing additional licensing requirements with the State of Michigan that will move our "provisional 6 month license" to the standard 2 year license. These licensing requirements will be completed by the 2nd week of January so that we are done well ahead of the February 1st deadline.



In January we will also be preparing for an open house that we will host in February where we will begin taking registrations for the fall 2014 school year. In the fall of 2014 we will be offering toddler school for 18 - 34 month olds, 3 and 4 year old preschool and a Young 5's program. Please be sure to tell your friends and family about BUC's preschool program.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact Kim Ruiz or Geri Ruggles at explorations@explorationspreschool.com if you have questions or would like a tour or fall 2014 registration information.

Fordree Law Firm, P.C.



Deborah E. Fordree
145 S. Livernois #280,
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
Telephone 248.652.1222
Fax 800.672.6260

fordreelaw@yahoo.com

Estate Planning – Wills, Trusts, Health Care Directives, Powers of Attorney, & General Practice

If you chose to make Birmingham Unitarian Church or UU organization a recipient of your estate, I will donate up to 20% of the fee to the Church or that UU organization.

Natural Sexuality



Annette Gates

Sexologist & Creator of Natural Sexual Reprogramming (NSR)®
Technique for Relationship & Sex Coaching offers webinars, private sessions, lectures, events, workshops, and retreats in: New York City, Detroit, San Francisco, Caribbean, Bali, and Mediterranean.



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Understand your patterns in relationship and beliefs around sexuality. Get new education and practices for better love and intimacy. Safe and welcoming space.

For singles and couples of all orientations.

January 14 Tue. 6:30 - 9 pm, BUC Commons
Unraveling a New You: Love and Sex Re-education.
February 14 Fri 7 - 9:30pm, BUC Commons
Valentines Dinner Event: Self Love is Real Love
February 15 Sat 9:30am - 5:30pm, BUC Commons
A Day for Uncovering the Heart of You

Read more and RSVP at: www.naturalsexuality.com
Or call Annette at 248-246-6221

Birmingham Unitarian Church

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