

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

BU C

BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH



Sunday Morning Flowers – Sharing Memories within Community

It only takes a moment to recognize or honor someone dear or to commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. We've initiated a simple new process to sign-up for Sunday Morning Flowers. On the Music & Worship tab on the website, is a link to sign up and available dates. When you sign up, the options listed are bringing your own arrangement or having BUC order one for you for the cost of \$45.

Following the link to the BUC website allows you to pay online by clicking on the "Donate" button and noting that is for "Sanctuary Flowers on (date)", or you may send a check to the office. Please note "Sunday Flowers" in the memo line. If you have questions, please feel free to call Grace Rising at (248) 545-2178.

Mark Your Calendars

Rummage Sale

Thurs., Fri., Sat.

Oct. 4 6:30 - 9 p.m.
Oct. 5 10 am-2pm
Oct. 6 9 am-Noon

SOS Sign-ups Begin

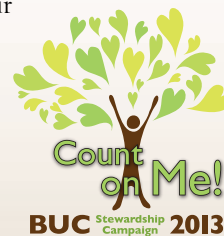
Sunday, Oct. 7

Mark your calendar, South Oakland Shelter at BUC November 4-11. Check the website for job descriptions. We're going paperless! See page six for more details.

Upcoming Services

7 "The Simultaneous Church" Guest minister Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister at the First UU Church, Columbus, Ohio, will talk about why we've decided to be together instead of believe together – the caring covenant. Gregg Bloomfield is Worship Associate. The Chalice Choir will sing at both services. BUC's K-5th grade children are concluding their exploration of Spiritual Leaders, focusing on the possibility that basing one's life on universal principles might be the best spiritual practice of all.

14 "Many Hearts, One Home" On this Stewardship Sunday when we consider the commitments that support our church community, Kathy and WA Kristi Fielder look into the heart connections that undergird all that we say and do as a church. Navigating through multiple choices and evaluating all of the ramifications of a decision can be disheartening. Yet, learning to achieve the best possible solution for this time and place can yield a significant step forward, as BUC's youth are learning as they wrap up their Fostering Equity unit.



21 "It's Always About the Question and Its Asking" Guest minister Harry Cook. Diane Lake is WA. Harry T. Cook is an author and popular lecturer in the southeastern Michigan community. Cook is a retired Episcopal minister. He continues his work as a peace and justice activist as well as a scholar and writer. His eighth book *Long Live Salvation by Works: A Humanist Manifesto* will be released this autumn. The Chalice Choir will be singing at both services.

BUC's K-5th children are pondering whether, despite differing ideologies, universal Moral Teachings exist that offer an individual a clear road map to a moral life. The high school youth are learning to recognize and honor their inner spiritual yearnings, through actions such as Prayer and Worship, as they plot out a clear road map to a healthy adulthood.

28 "The Face of Fear" A multigenerational service to prepare for Halloween and all its hauntings, led by Kathy and Lifespan Team member Pamela McAlpin.



Connections: Joys & Sorrows

To submit Joys and Sorrows for upcoming newsletters, please submit on our website [newsletter submission form](#).

We are sad to report that longtime church member Hugh Brown died on September 13 in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 88. Hugh and his wife Lynn were longtime members of BUC, and Hugh was president of the congregation in 1958 when the church broke ground for the building. Hugh's memorial service was held September 20 at the UU Congregation of Princeton. Hugh and Lynn considered BUC to be their church home. The family has asked that memorial gifts be given to BUC. Lynn's address is: Windrows, #4 Hedgerow, Princeton, NJ, 08540.

"It was with great joy that I read the kind thoughts sent to me recently. Thanks to all who wished me well. I was reminded that my spirit is truly in the walls and halls of BUC and I treasure the sense of reconnection you gave me. Peace, Brenda McDonald"

Dick Nelson's wife, Crystal, passed away on Sept. 4. Dick, was along with their son and daughter were at her side. A memorial service was held at Christ Lutheran Church in Waterford. The last church where Dick served as minister before retiring.

Kelly Taylor graduated from ST. John's School of Radiologic Technology and passed her national registry exam. Congratulations!

Don & Nancy Johnson celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on September 9. Congratulations!

BUC member Gretchen Ruff's mother died in Illinois at the age of 97 on September 8. Marian was a dear friend to many at BUC and Northwest. ~ Joann Coates

Bonnie & Gene Simms celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary the first week in September. Congratulations!

Grace Rising shares her joy at the birth of a new granddaughter, Mara Grace Bryan born September 7th, weighting in at 8lbs, 10 oz. The new mom and dad are doing fine.

Dave Mikol who attended BUC with Sherry Mullins for several years, passed away on September 13. His Memorial Service will be November 3, at 11 a.m. Please call Sherry for more information at 248-430-4224.

BUC member, Annis Pratt is asking for thoughts and prayers for her daughter Lorien Pratt, who underwent a double mastectomy on September 26.

Due to health concerns, Ken Kauffman has moved to Cedar Springs, Michigan to live with his daughter.

Fiona Erickson is thrilled to announce that she graduated and is officially an "RN." She has accepted a position in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Genesys Hospital in Grand Blanc.

Paul and Mary Jo Plante welcome another grandbaby, Kate Dreslinski to their family. Congratulations to the proud grandma and grandpa bringing the grand total to six!

BUC member, Sandy Frincke passed away at home with her husband by her side on September 24th. Her Memorial Service will be held at BUC on Saturday, October 15 at 11:00, followed by a reception in the Social Hall. Sandy was a dear, gentle, loving soul who spread joy and goodwill wherever she went. Her daughter Jackie grew up at BUC and was married here last year.

Melinda Henderson's parents and fellow UU's, Ann and Dennis Henderson have moved to the area and began attending services here at BUC. Their daughter,, Melinda, son-in-law George and grandson, Nathan are very happy!

Dorothy Prier's nephew, Michael Chambers was killed in an auto accident in September. He is survived by his mother and father, his two siblings, his wife and their sixteen-year-old child.

BUC members Nicole & Ryan VanKlompensburg were married on September 29, in a wedding service in their home state of Indiana. Four of their BUC Small Group members made it for the celebration. Congratulations!

Getting Involved: Affinity Groups, Film Buffs, Volunteering

Grief Group – October 9th

An open grief group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 in the large conference room. 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](tel:248-219-9654) or gbrising@comcast.net

Friday Food, Faith, Fun & Fulfillment – Oct. 12th

This potluck fellowship event will offer a choice this month. You may participate in Game Night, or sign up to participate in a special Adult RE. The FFFFF's during October, November, and December will include an adult education class taught by Kathy Hurt, on "Owning Your Religious Past." Whether you grew up in another faith tradition, as a Unitarian Universalist, or unchurched, this class affords ways to consider what your personal religious history has meant and how it helps shape your present faith perspective in myriad ways. The class includes presentations and exercises. Please sign up for this event on [SignUp Genius](http://www.bucmi.org/SignUpGenius). – on our website, [www.bucmi.org/Connect/Fellowship with Food/Sign Up](http://www.bucmi.org/Connect/Fellowship%20with%20Food/SignUp)

Met Opera Live in HD – October 27th

BUC opera fans can enjoy together four performances from the Metropolitan Opera's 2112 – 2113 season of operas transmitted live in high definition to movie theaters. Our BUC opera season begins Saturday, October 27th at 12:55 PM with Verdi's Otello. Ticket price: \$22. (\$20. for seniors). After each opera we plan to meet for discussion and fellowship at a nearby Max and Erma's restaurant. If you would like to participate, you can sign up after services at the Fellowship table in the Social Hall, or contact Margot LeRoy at 248-524-1627 email: margotintroy@comcast.net

Green Sanctuary – Harvest Potluck October 27th

The 5th annual Harvest Potluck, beginning at 6:15pm on Sat, Oct 27th in the Social Hall. You don't want to miss a chance to re-connect with friends in the BUC community AND enjoy a fantastic meal. The theme is Sustainable Food. Please contribute something that you feel fits that category with a card explaining why in addition to the ingredients of your dish for eight. Guest speaker Fay Hansen. Fay's original interests in native plants led her to the MSU Student Organic Farm Certificate Program, where she not only learned more about native plants as pollinator attractants in polyculture, she came to see that the conventional "food system" had many negative impacts, with implications for cardiovascular disease and others, but also for the health of the planet. She received a Certificate in Permaculture Design during her sabbatical and she founded and managed a community organic farm in White Lake for two years. . There will be activities for the children.



BUC Film Buffs: Oct. 19 – Large Conference Room

Monsieur Lazhar "In Montreal, the unexpected death of an elementary school teacher comes to the attention of Bachir Lazhar, a 55-year-old Algerian immigrant, who goes to the school to offer his services as a substitute teacher and is quickly hired as a replacement. The cultural gap between Bachir and his class is immediately apparent when he gives them a dictation exercise well beyond their reach. Bachir soon learns to better understand this group of shaken, endearing kids, among whom are two charismatic pupils particularly affected by their teacher's death. While the class goes through the healing process, nobody in the school is aware of Bachir's past; nor do they suspect the constant risk under which he lives." The enchanting Monsieur Lazhar depicts the encounter between two distant worlds and the power of self-expression. From the producers of the Academy Award®-nominated Incendies, Monsieur Lazhar uses great sensitivity and humor to follow a humble man who is ready to transcend his own troubles in order to guide a new generation. -DFT Spring 2012 Film Guide.

Snacks provided! For more information contact Larry Wisniewski at 248.569.0965 or by email: LJWinsiew@yahoo.com

Reflections by the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



With only a few weeks remaining until election day in November, with the airwaves saturated with political ads primarily negative in content and tone, with signs sprouting on lawns all around, I suppose I should not be surprised to hear, along with all the election talk, a host of apocalyptic references. That seems to happen whenever we reach a juncture in our community life where choices

to be made would take us in decidedly different directions, where stakes are high. The apocalyptic references come in the form of dire predictions if the “wrong” candidate wins, threats to flee the country for some safer place to live. Depending on the choice voters make, November could be either the time when we enter a period of blessedness and growth, or a time when doom is certain and all will be lost.

Of course history is replete with examples of periods of apocalyptic thinking, as events seemed to reach a critical turning point where change was essential and not changing would result in the end of time. Millennial periods, periods of warfare or plague, especially give rise to apocalyptic talk. And now, apparently an election year also is a time for apocalypticism: we seem unable to discuss election options without casting them in terms of dire prophecies should the desired candidate lose, so that flight to another country becomes the only remaining choice.

I consider myself to be a reasonably well-informed voter, and I agree that our nation is in desperate need of rebuilding, of not only political transformation but spiritual and moral transformation. I also agree that many of our current ways of going about our business do not portend well for the future of the human or natural world.

But that is the same judgment I might have made twenty years ago, or two years ago. All times can seem the most difficult of times, especially while we stand in the midst of them. The trick is to remember this—that all times can seem desperate, just as all times can seem full of possibility and the potential for goodness. Annie Dillard makes the point eloquently in *For the Time Being*:

“There were no formerly heroic times, and there was no formerly heroic generation. There is no one here but us

chickens, and so it has always been: a people busy and powerful, knowledgeable, ambivalent, important, and self-aware; a people who scheme, promote, deceive, and conquer; who pray for their loved ones, and long to flee misery and skip death. It is a weakening and discolored idea that rustic people knew God personally once upon a time—or even knew selflessness or courage or literature—but it is too late for us. In fact, the absolute is available to everyone in every age. There never was a more holy age than ours, and never a less.”

So regardless of how the election goes, I hope you will consider sticking around, to celebrate if your candidate wins, to work for change if your candidate loses, and to encourage the rest of us as we keep moving along, doing the best we can.

Faithfully,

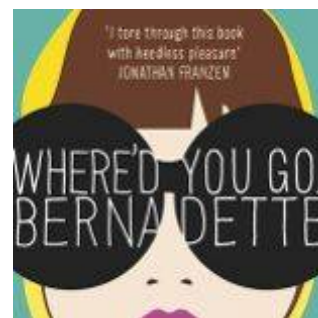
Kathy

Drop In Book Club, Nov. 1

The September selection, *Perla* by Carolina De Robertis was a unanimous thumbs up from those who attended on September 27th – welcome to the regulars, and a special welcome to the three first time drop in readers who joined us. Due to the heavy nature of subject matter of *Perla*, this month’s book selection is swerving away to something completely different. Join us for a fun discussion on Thursday, November 1 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the classroom with the Red Door, through the main entrance across the courtyard.

Where’d You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple. From the book cover blurb, “Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she’s a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she’s a disgrace; to design mavens, she’s a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom.

To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, secret correspondence—creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter’s role in an absurd world.”



Words & Spirit

The written and spoken word is central to our Unitarian-Universalist faith. And reflection is part of who we are as religious people. This church year we will offer two groups that will focus on themes having to do with spirit each month. We will engage with themes that speak to our religious journey. In each group we will be reading and writing pieces that will help illuminate spiritual and religious questions that relate to that month's theme. The groups will meet monthly at BUC from 7:00 – 8:30 in the Blue Door classroom and will be facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans. You can feel free to drop in or attend one or both groups regularly.

Spiritual Conversations; Poetry and Reflection – meets first Monday of each month (October 1) “*You don’t read to discover the poet, you read to discover yourself.*” ~ Billy Collins

Whether you are new to poetry, a lifetime lover of poetry or a poet yourself, in this group you will share and be exposed to poetry with others who search the world of words for meaning, comfort, challenge, reflection. Using a monthly theme, group members will share poetry and reflect on where the poem touches their life. If you wish, bring a poem to share related to this month's theme.

Writing as spiritual practice – meets third Monday of each month (October 15) “*In this insistence of writing, who I want to find is myself.*” ~ Humberto Ak’abal

The writing group will focus on writing as a means for spiritual reflection on the monthly theme. Through guided writing exercises, members of the group will write about their own reflections. Writers may choose to share their words or to keep them private. Bring a journal and a pen and your willingness to explore.

“Humility” will be the theme in October. What is it exactly? What are its opposites? How do we nurture humility in ourselves? What does UUism have to say about this topic?

Discussion Groups @ BUC

Science for Everyone

The First meeting of the group was a success: ten people attended and the discussion was lively. We will proceed to have regular monthly meetings on the THIRD TUESDAY (note the day of the week change) from 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room. Tuesday, October 16 we will begin a discussion of the design of experiments to test new drugs on human subjects.

Sacred & Profane

The next meeting of this discussion group is on Wednesday, October 17 at 10:30 AM in the large conference room. The topic is “Extra-Sensory Perception”, and will be facilitated by Susan Williams. Do you read your Horoscopes, consult a Psychic, been assaulted by Poltergeists, pestered by ghosts, or communicated with the departed? Let's hear about your experiences.

Sunday Morning Book Discussion

Meets at 9:30 in the Large Conference Room and ends in time for the service at 11:15. We will be discussing Part Three of the book *Jesus for the Non-Religious* by John Shelby Spong. You need not have read the book to attend our discussions. Grab a cup of coffee in the Social Hall and join us!

What's It All About?

An exploration and discussion of the big questions in our lives.

Facilitated by Ben Bennett Carpenter & Kathleen Ivanoff, Thursdays from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. , Oct 25, Nov 1, Nov 8, & Nov 15, 2012

After all, what is it all about? This four-week exploration and discussion group ventures into the big questions in our lives. With some inspiration from poets, scientists, filmmakers, and musicians, we'll explore together questions that range from the nature of human existence in the cosmos to why it is each one of us gets out of bed in the morning. Through short writings and discussions, we will ponder questions like the following:

- What comes to mind for you if you are asked, “What's it all about?”
- What are some main sources of inspiration or reference for you as you live your life?
- How do you think about “it all” – in terms of a picture, theory, story, or something else?
- How would you describe your place in the universe? How about your place in society?
- If you could change things, what would you change ~ & what would you keep the same?
- How would you describe what makes people “tick”?
- What or who defines you and how? How do you define your self?

The group is open to those who've never pondered such questions, those who've pondered them their whole lives, and anyone in-between! \$10 charge (\$5 for students) per session. Questions may be directed to Ben at: bbennettcarpenter@gmail.com [248 854 8340](tel:2488548340)

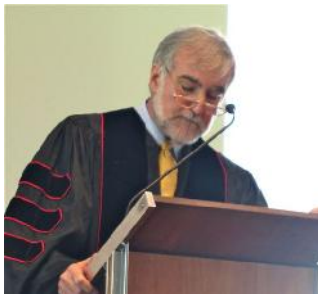
Ben Bennett-Carpenter's (www.benjaminbennettcarpenter.com)

earned a PhD in religion & culture from the Catholic University of America, Washington DC, and more recently (2011), he completed an MA in clinical psychology at the Michigan School of Professional Psychology. He teaches courses in writing & rhetoric, creativity, and integrative studies at Oakland University and has published in related areas. He became affiliated with BUC in August 2011 and signed the membership book in January 2012.

Kathleen Ivanoff's (www.kathleenivanoff.com) formal education began in 1989 as one of a handful of people who gathered to study with Tibetan Master Kyabje Gelek Rimpoche, after he moved to Ann Arbor from India to teach Buddhism in the West. Eventually she became the Program Director of Gelek Rimpoche's organization, Jewel Heart, working to develop the core curriculum that is offered in Jewel Heart Centers Worldwide. In 2007 Kathleen graduated from EMU's Graduate Program in Women and Gender Studies and began teaching creative writing courses at EMU. In 2011 she graduated from the Michigan School of Professional Psychology (formerly The Center for Humanistic Studies) with a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology.

Service & Justice

BUC congregants and visitors were treated to a thought-provoking sermon on September 23 by Rev William Schulz on the work of the UUSC to advance human rights around the



world. Some also attended an Economic Justice workshop facilitated by UUSC's Kara Smith that got us thinking about the rights and conditions of workers in the food chain from field to table, whether that table is in our homes or a restaurant. Special thanks to Anne Calomeni who

hosted a UUSC reception in conjunction with these events.

Upcoming Events

- **October 14:** 38th Annual Focus: HOPE Walk, 12:30 p.m., Detroit. Contact Paul Vachon at pr.vachon@hotmail.com to register, or pick up a form in the office. Focus: HOPE is a Detroit based organization dedicated to intelligent and practical solutions to problems of hunger, economic disparity, inadequate education, and racial divisiveness; www.focushope.edu
- **October 27:** "Protecting Access to Health Care" conference in Lansing. Workshop topics are Reproductive Justice, Ethical Eating, "Hands off

Medicare and Medicaid", and Keep Home Care a Safe Choice. Visit www.uujustice.org for more information and to register, or contact randyblock@yahoo.com.

Throughout September, a portion of the plate collection will benefit Communities United for Children, through whom many BUCers support the Whitmer Human Resource Center in Pontiac.

Registration forms are available online at www.uujustice.org Early bird registration fees until October 17, \$20 (after Oct. 17 \$25). Childcare is available if reserved by the 17th Call Pat Hammer for more information 248.644.6568 or email:

patriciajhammer@gmail.com

- **November 4-11:** BUC hosts the South Oakland Shelter (SOS).

BUC's Plate Collection

The October plate collection recipient is HAVEN, an organization in Pontiac that provides emergency services to women and children fleeing domestic violence.

SOS November 4-11

"**Save the Dates**", and volunteer please. There are over 200 volunteer positions required to house 35 men, women and children homeless guests at BUC for a week. This is the largest Needs Network project we do. For over 20 years, members have done an outstanding job. Thank you! Can we count on YOU this year? Volunteers are needed for driving, food, facilities, host, laundry and special adult and children activities. Other local UU's will join us again this year. Sign up begins Sunday October 7 in the Social Hall. Telephone and e-mail sign up will also be available. Detail info available October 1 at BUC Web site www.bucmi.org. Click the tab "Serve-SOS" and find the volunteer job descriptions on the right side bar. A few leadership positions are open, and need filling.

Questions to co-coordinators: Paul Plante:

pplante@twmi.rr.com, Ph: 734-464-1577 and Grace

Rising: gbrising@comcast.net, Ph: 248-545-2178

Welcome Inn Comedy Castle Fun-raiser October, 25

The Welcome Inn, a homeless shelter in Royal Oak where BUCers volunteer every year, is holding its seventh Comedy Castle fundraiser Thursday, October 25th, 2012. Tickets will be available in the social hour during coffee hours: see Annis Pratt, LarLar Freedman, or Rolland Vriesenga.



Children's Rotation Curriculum

October's rotation, **Moral Teachings**, explores how our religion guides us in leading moral lives. All of the world's major religions have different answers to the question of how to lead an ethical life. This rotation asks the BUC's children to contemplate for themselves four different moral perspectives:

- 1) Christian Sermon on the Mount – The Storytelling workshop explores how *both* Jesus' words and actions taught his followers to lead a moral life, focusing on the value lessons that Unitarian Universalists can find in Jesus' teachings of the Beatitudes.
- 2) Pillars of Islam – The History workshop focuses on the some core Islamic beliefs, exploring what this faith teaches Muslims about the Qur'an, the prophets and Judgment Day. This class also examines the Five Pillars of Islam and how these expectations guide Muslims in their spiritual and moral lives.
- 3) Hindu Duties – The Art workshop explores what the Hindu faith teaches its followers about the meaning of "Dharma" or duty. It also examines how a Hindu practices his/her faith, particularly through Puja or worship.
- 4) UU Seven Principles – The Games workshop examines how the UU religion guides its followers in their moral decisions by offering them the Seven Principles to follow. This class also explores how our religion encourages covenants for its congregations - collections of value statements that leave the ultimate ethical decisions and corresponding actions up to us as both individuals and communities.

For further information, please contact Children's DRE Eleanor McGuire at eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org.

BUC. Our trained facilitators for this year are: Dave Graham, Laura Hamrick, Max Kort, and Julie Stitt of Northwest UU Church. We will continue to offer our traditional group fundraisers, but our Scrip program has now become part of the general fund. Please see the special Scrip article for details.

High School

As Unitarian Universalists, we are often not allowed to give simple, fuzzy, "touchy-feely" answers to difficult questions. All of our beliefs and feelings must be based on well-reasoned logic. This intellectual practice serves us well except in the realm of prayer and worship. This month's Sunday morning high school classes explore the role and value of prayer and worship in a human life. Succinctly, it is important that every human being feel comfortable with any inner spiritual needs that they may have and ultimately develop ways to honor those needs. Here is a brief overview of the workshops and ideas comprising the **Prayer and Worship** unit:

- ✚ *What brings meaning to **worship**? How is worship different than prayer? Or, different from spirituality? And do these distinction matter?*
- ✚ *Do we all **seek guidance and hope for God's grace**, although in very different forms? Does meditating and waiting to arrive at an answer count as seeking guidance? Would telling someone "Good Luck" equal quietly imploring the universe on his/her behalf?*
- ✚ *If **confession and absolution** are central human experiences, how are we creating those moments in our lives? The tale of *Jonah and the Whale* addresses the issues of mistakes, forgiveness and moving on. How are we honoring, and hopefully sharing, those experiences in our lives?*
- ✚ *What is the purpose of **meditation** or connectedness? Is it an openness that has no agenda? Do we often practice it without even recognizing the need?*

The high school youth will hold their traditional Rummage Consolidation work event on Friday, Oct. 5, followed by a sleepover. (Note: Youth who are staying overnight must have a signed permission slip.) They are considering a number of social action projects and on Oct. 14 will join the larger church in the Focus: Hope walk. Oct. 27, all GUUSH members are invited to the home of the Arnold family in Clarkston for a bonfire and a movie on the side of their barn!

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.

Youth Religious Education

The church year is off to a good start. The 6th and 7th grade class's first field trip on Sept. 30 was to Emerson UU Church in Troy. In October, they will look at the historical roots of Judaism with teachers Steve Lorey, Laura Burleigh, and Gaelan Campbell-Fox. Thanks to the Stroup family for volunteering to run the UFO SOS Baking Project in November! Other tentative events include volunteering at Gleaners, ice-skating, and possibly curling!

This year's **8th grade coming of age** program has begun with a special **OWL (Our Whole Lives)** class which includes youth from Northwest and Paint Creek UU Churches, as well as



Autumn started with a bang for music at BUC! We welcomed a number of new adults to the BUC Chalice Choir and a bunch of new, fresh faces to the Kids Choir. The choirs are busy preparing for upcoming services and especially for Handel's Messiah, to be performed on December 9th. Our doors are always open to your voices and now is a PERFECT time to come and sing. In services, we had special guests, the Scott Gwinnell Trio play jazz music for the Bill Schulz/UUSC service. There are more guest musicians to come. The search for our new pianist is in full swing, and we are excited about all the prospects.

Chalice Choir

Rehearsals for the BUC Chalice Choir are on Wednesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. We will sing for both services on Sunday October 7th and 21st. Come for great music, fun and snacks. Even if you have no prior choir experience, you DO have a voice, and that is all you need!! Our choir is an easygoing fun group of folks who welcome ALL and nurture ALL. I invite singers from high school-age and older to come and sing. Soon, we will have a choral clinic, a possible collaboration with the UU Ann Arbor church and we will sing part of Handel's Messiah for December services with a chamber orchestra! Should be quite a fall and winter.

Kids Choir

Rehearsals for Kid's Choir are from 10:35 till 11:10 in the large classroom downstairs (not the music room) so we can have more space to move around and make music together. Please email me if you have questions. abha.dearing@bucmi.org

Upcoming Music News

Our SoundBites Task Force invites anyone who is interested in setup, decor, teardown or who has a knack for baking high-end treats to come and be a part of making our concert series a success. Our first show is December 8th. We welcome African percussionists who make up The Bernard Woma Ensemble to celebrate Kwanzaa 2012.

Be part of the musical life at BUC. Email Abha or Steven.
abha.dearing@bucmi.org and steven.dearing@bucmi.org

SoundBites

Concert, Afterglow & You.

BUC October Artist: Christina Haylett Reception October 12, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

I was born in 1950 in Royal Oak Michigan. I went to school for 12 years at Shrine Elementary and Shrine High. I graduated in 1968. Worked for a while after graduation and in 1975 was accepted at Center for Creative Studies into the Fine Arts Program. This had been a dream of mine since high school. I always wanted to be an artist and always felt like an artist from about the age of 9 years old. I was able to get grants and loans and a small scholarship to help pay for it.

Upon entering CCS I had to declare a major and so I chose fine arts printmaking. I found out fast that printmaking was not something I was going to be able to stick with because it seemed so process driven. I changed my major to painting. Loved painting but was very disappointed when an instructor said it was almost impossible to make a living off painting. I absolutely loved going to CCS. It was the first time in my life I felt like I was where I belonged. I graduated in 1980 with a BFA. After graduation I knew I had to make money to support myself and was fortunate to start working in auto related jobs as a detailer, then designer, then process engineer for Chrysler. I worked at Chrysler for 23 years and was offered an early out in 2007. I have been working steadily at my art since retirement. At least one day a week I paint with other artists, the Thursday Brushes. I belong to several art centers and guilds. I enter shows and go to all of the art related activities I can. I continue to take classes and attend workshops. I have been very fortunate to have developed a friendship with Charles McGee. He is my mentor and the inspiration for the most recent work.

I am extremely fortunate to have been given this gift of art. I am grateful for it every day. There is no other medium that comes close to allowing me to express myself. I have met so many wonderful people on this artist journey.

I live in Oakland Township with my husband Andy, who is my biggest support and frame maker, 4 cats and our dog.



BUC Alliance – DIA Speaker



BUC Alliance 2012-2013 is off to a good start! We will continue with our October 17 meeting – a brown bag lunch at Noon in the Pavilion and a wonderful program around 1:00 p.m. in the Commons.

We are delighted to present a speaker from the DIA who will show and tell us about the exciting Faberge exhibition coming October 14 – January 21. More than 200 precious objects by Faberge from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (Richmond) will be on display at the DIA – and we will be well prepared to see and appreciate it!

During our lunch BUCer Mary Dunn will speak briefly about Project Vote Smart, a national organization that collects and presents data about political candidates. Alliance provides beverages and cookies to go with your brown bag lunch. Everyone is always welcome to attend our Alliance events – and also to become a member of Alliance. You may join at the October meeting if you haven't already done so.

Note that our November meeting date is Wednesday, November 14 (a week early). John Hammer will show sketches of the proposed up dating of our BUC grounds at the program, after the bag lunch at noon.

Before you know it, we'll be having our traditional holiday luncheon, so save the date... December 5!

Larry Freedman, Volunteer of the Month

Our family first started to attend BUC when we moved to Michigan from New Jersey in 1974 due to a job change. We had previously been attending smaller congregations and fellowships where everyone was expected to volunteer. There was little or no professional staff to rely on. At BUC we soon found that lots of volunteers were also needed and that many more opportunities to serve were available. Being new in the area, we also felt that the quickest way to make some friends was to participate in church functions and activities.



At the time, the financial pledge campaign was conducted largely through home visits by canvassers. I volunteered as a canvasser, and enjoyed the experience of discussing with members our mutual feelings about BUC. One year I served as co-chairperson of the pledge drive and was able to help many of our member canvassers have the same rewarding experience.

Having been a youth advisor in a UU fellowship and Boy Scout leader, I felt I could help the BUC youth program. I also wanted to insure a good experience for my own teenage children and therefore served as an advisor for the UFO and subsequently for GUUSH. It is rewarding to see how many of the youth I knew become responsible adults.

Having enjoyed choral singing in high school and college, I decided to try the BUC choir. Except for two years working in the Washington DC area and a few years serving as principal caregiver for my late wife, Marilyn, I have remained a choir member. I always look forward to the camaraderie with other musicians and being able to contribute to the enjoyment and spirituality of Sunday services.

I offered to serve occasionally as an usher on Sunday mornings and since Marilyn often served coffee, I would end up washing the coffee pots. For the last several years I have served as Usher Coordinator. The many members who continually volunteer for this important function make the job enjoyable.

For the last few years I have served on the BUC Membership Committee where we strive to help visitors follow a path to membership and acquaint current members with ways to become more active. I am currently serving my second year on the Leadership Development Committee, having twice replaced a committee member who could not continue. I find very satisfying the experience of helping to identify and recruit members with the ability, desire and time to serve in leadership positions.

I have regularly been a rummage worker both in sorting and sales, and always look forward to the fun and spirit of Rummage Week.

For the past few years I have volunteered as an overnight host when BUC serves as host for the South Oakland Shelter. During the winter I volunteer one day a week at the Welcome Inn homeless shelter which BUC supports.

The third UUA principle in our Order of Service states: "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations". I have found that volunteering not only helps others and our church, it has helped me immeasurably in my own spiritual growth.

Shopping Cart Fundraising

Raise Money for Our Organization While Doing Your Every Day Shopping!

is **Fundraising While You Shop™**.

Did you know you can raise money for our organization while doing your everyday shopping? All you have to do is purchase gift cards from America's favorite retailers and use them in place of cash, checks, or credit cards for purchases you were going to make anyway! Each card purchased carries an associated "contribution" of 2-15% or more.

Gift cards are available from over 300 national and local retailers. Groceries, clothing, dining out, home improvement, even gasoline can all be purchased with Scrip. An organization of 150 families easily spends between one and two million dollars a year on these purchases. If they do the majority of this shopping with Scrip, they can raise as much as \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year for our organization – without spending an additional penny!



Average Per Family

	Average Contribution	Spending per Month	Contribution per Year
Grocery	4%	\$400	\$192
Gas	3%	\$200	\$72
Dining Out	8%	\$200	\$192
Clothing	8%	\$100	\$96
Books/Videos	9%	\$100	\$108
Home Improvement	4%	\$100	\$48
		\$1,100	\$708

Imagine if you had...

10 Families	\$7,080
20 Families	\$14,160
100 Families	\$70,800

Questions about SCRIP?

Contact BUC Scrip Coordinators:

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General Promo (7/08)



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ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday Programs Presented by the Southeast Michigan Group of the Sierra Club

Free, All Welcome

- Thursday, November 1: "Environmental Justice in Detroit: How Air Quality Around Schools Affects Children" Presented by Paul Mohai, Ph.D., professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Michigan. A noted researcher on environmental justice, Dr. Mohai will explain some of this recent research on air quality around schools in Detroit and its impact on children's health.

Program Format

- 6:30-7:00: Light Refreshments, Meet & Greet
- 7:00-7:30: Group Announcements
- 7:30-8:30: Guest Speaker
- 8:30-9:00: Volunteer Sign Up, Merchandise Sales, Meet the Speaker

Interested in advertising in our newsletter? Space is limited and dependent upon availability. Cost is \$25 for a quarter page advertisement. Contact the editor, Lisa Crawford at lisa.crawford@bucmi.org

"This is an amazing debut novel – well written and edited, inspiring, uplifting, and thought-provoking. I don't hesitate to recommend it highly."

-Top to Bottom Reviews

Sacred Wave Gong Immersions

Presents:

"Riding the Light Wave"

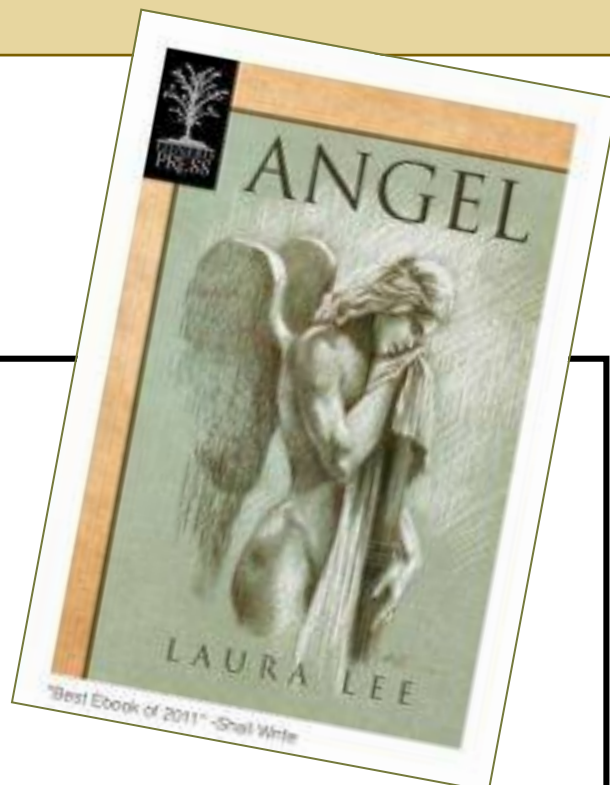
This is an illuminating, meditative, sound healing experience

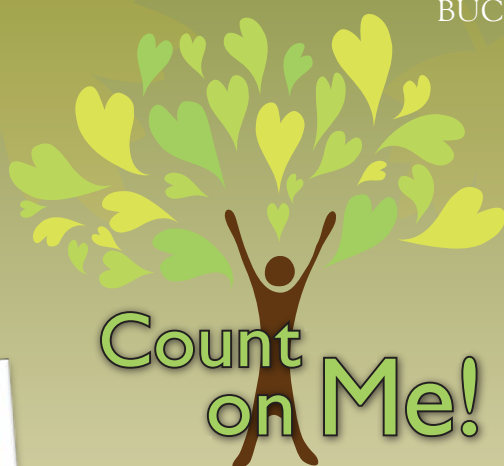
in the Birmingham Unitarian Church Commons

October 19th 7:30 pm to 9 pm One hour Gong Immersion. Bring more padding than you think you will need to lay comfortably on the floor for an hour and a bottle of water. Afterward, we will offer tea and time to share for those interested. Fee \$25 and 10% of the proceeds will be donated to New Beginnings Animal Rescue. Space is limited so please contact us at:

248.721.7094(Christopher) or
248.390.6227(Carol) to make your reservation or to learn more about us.

You may also check us out at Sacred Wave Gong Immersions on Facebook and Youtube





Count
on Me!
BUC Stewardship Campaign **2013**



Birmingham Unitarian Church

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