



Birmingham Unitarian Church  
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



5/8 "Do I Hear Your Mom Calling?"



5/15 "The Demands of an Image"



5/29 "A Costly Peace"

## + Annual Meeting May 22, 11:45 a.m.

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is pleased to announce the list of nominees and candidates for leadership positions for the next church year. Check out the slideshow after the service on Sunday, May 1, for a quick visual introduction to the candidates, and then stop by the Social Hall to get more information from the display boards. Our website will also have all of the candidate information. Some print copies will be available in the office. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote using an absentee ballot, which will be available in the church office May 8. Remember that all members in good standing are eligible to vote. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact the church office.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Principle "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

In May we conclude our yearlong focus on the 7 principles. The 7<sup>th</sup> principle pledges us to have "respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part." Like the first principle, this final principle is well-known and much loved, perhaps because of the beautiful image of the web of all life, perhaps because it resonates with the commitment to environmental justice and care for the earth that many UUs practice. Given the degree to which the 7<sup>th</sup> principle already has settled into our awareness and lifestyles, how do we take it to the next step, and what would that step look like?

## SERVICES 10:30 a.m.

8 Mothers play a foundational role in all our lives, as the persons who have known us since before we were born. Mother Earth holds a similar role, the literal foundation of our lives. Growing in independence, we push away and pay less attention to our mothers. But wholeness requires that at some point we turn back and attend to our literal and metaphorical mothers once more. Kathy and WA Camille Harris lead this service. Music provided by the BUC Chalice Choir.

15 Guest minister, Rev. Dr. Mark Belletini - In all the Principles of our living tradition, there is but one image; this image, "the interdependent web of all existence of which we all are part," places more demands on us, and is more theologically subtle, than any of the other phrases in that document. Worship Associate Sara Constantakis, and words by Galileo and Marge Piercy will help unpack this assertion. Music provided by the Sound Messengers.

22 "Celestial Beings" is the theme for Choir Sunday. Come explore the bees, stars, planets, water, and things in our orbit.

29 The events of D-Day and the landing at Normandy, as experienced by two particular soldiers, are the focus of this reflective, poignant service led by Kathy and WA Judy Amir. Music by pianist Rudolfs Ozolins. Following, we will convene in the Memorial Glen for our annual remembering of members and loved ones who died during the year. The Dearing's will provide music.

## Connections: Joys & Sorrows

“...joy and sorrow are inseparable... together they come and when one sits alone with you... remember the other is asleep upon your bed.”

-Khalil Gibran



“The family of Elson Spangler would like to thank everyone who contributed to the fund established in his memory. In light of his lifelong support of education, the \$4,030 has been donated to the Oakland Literacy Council. This well established organization is dedicated to teaching individuals, age 18 years and older, to learn to read. The funds will be used to train tutors, who work one on one with the clients, and for the acquisition of necessary materials. We are grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of everyone who contributed to this memorial fund.”

John Vujovich, stepfather of BUC member Jim Lewis, died March 28 at the age of 97. Mr. Vujovich and Jim’s mother had been married nearly 30 years.

Please keep Marilyn Rauth (mother of Elizabeth Routh) in your thoughts and prayers. She was recently in a car accident.

Steven and Abha Dearing celebrate 18 years of officially being a Duo!

After several months recuperating from severe injuries sustained in a car accident in December, Keith Brown returned home. Since he missed Christmas, his partner Joy left the tree up and they celebrated Christmas on April 8<sup>th</sup> ☺ Keith visited BUC in a wheelchair on April 24 for our Earth Day Celebration. Merry Christmas, and welcome home Keith!

Kaye Rittinger fell when visiting friend in San Diego and is back in Michigan with a broken left ankle and broken right foot. The BUC choir visited her for to spread a bit of cheer. Check out the video on our Facebook page [HERE](#).

Mary Jo Larson & Jim Bizer: “Our son Jordan graduates this month from undergrad, and our daughter Liz completes her Masters degree in Speech Pathology. Woo hoo!”

Kaaren Peters has moved back to Michigan. Welcome back Kaaren – it’s good to have you back!

BUC Member Dawn Kulongowski: “On April 3rd, I graduated from a program and officially became a davidji certified Master of Wisdom and Meditation Teacher. The program was honestly more difficult than I initially expected - very intense and plentiful reading as well as taking a very hard look at my own life from many angles. I had to open my mind and my heart in a profound manner and I’m extremely proud of this accomplishment and anxious to share the knowledge with anyone it may benefit. Please contact me if you need someone to teach you meditation, practical stress management, the principles of Buddhism, the 7 spiritual laws, and communication skills. I’m very liberal when it comes to saying ‘I don’t know’ as well, so I’d be quick to say if I wasn’t comfortable or properly knowledgeable on a particular topic.”



## BUC Alliance

Alliance will not have a program meeting in May. Instead, we encourage everyone to help with the Spring rummage sale!

Our last meeting of the year is the annual meeting on June 1. There will be a catered luncheon by Donna Hollis, the Inspired Chef. Mark your calendars for noon on June 1 in the Social Hall. More details will be available later.

## Look Who Signed the Membership Book in April!



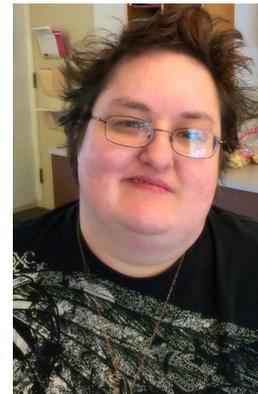
Alice Champion signed the book on April 5, and says, "I've felt most welcomed both spiritually and intellectually at BUC. My interests include reading, traveling, gardening, photography, keeping in shape, and most of all- having fun with my grandkids! I'm looking forward to more connections at BUC."



After attending BUC for several years, Janet signed the book on April 7. Janet teaches at Wayne State University. This is the first church she has ever joined.



Larry Ely (pictured here with partner Anita Rainey) has been part of the UU communities in East Lansing, and in Columbia South Carolina. Larry signed the Membership Book on April 10.



Heather Aymer signed the book on April 11 and is an "LGBTQ artist and writer charming the masses with awkward hilarity whilst being overzealous helping... helping everything. Volunteer, scholar, foolishly delighted by all the things. Converse with me, it'll be a riot, I assure you."

Have you attended a Sunday service or two and are interested in finding out more about us? Are you thinking about signing our Membership Book, and would like to know more? There will be an opportunity in July to sit down for a light lunch and have some conversations at a BUC "Newbie Meet & Greet." If you'd like to talk with someone before that, please contact our Membership Facilitator, Lisa Crawford and she will arrange a convenient time to meet, have a cup of tea or coffee, and hopefully answer your questions. A good place to start is by taking a look at our Membership Path Brochure, available on our website > About Us > Membership Path or linked [HERE](#). You can also pick up a printed copy from the racks outside the main office, or from the visitors table in the foyer following a Sunday morning service.

## BUC Board of Trustees Town Hall: May 15

We will hold a very content-filled Town Hall meeting in the Sanctuary, following the service on May 15th. At that point we will be able to communicate details regarding the construction schedule, total project cost and scope, as well as our construction finance and mortgage plan.

## Free Health Screening May 22

Come at 9:00 a.m. and get your blood pressure, body mass index, blood glucose, and cholesterol checked. Offered at no cost to you by Trinity Health of St. Joseph Mercy Oakland. These will be done in the classroom with the blue door off the main courtyard on the east side.



## REFLECTIONS



Rev. Dr.  
Kathy Hurt

Ever since April 10, I have been spending time each day opening a few of the cards stuffed into a very large box that was presented to me as part of your beautiful celebration of my 30-year anniversary of ordination and my 5-year anniversary of installation as your settled minister. I pull a handful of cards out, open them one by one, read through the poignant and gracious messages inside each one several times, let the image of you, the writers of the cards, come into my mind's eye, and feel my heart open ever wider. Those cards from you will be with me until the day I die (and I have already alerted my son to their presence and made him promise to read each one, as I am now reading them, before deciding what to do with them). Thank you for your love, for your support, for the continued privilege of being your minister. Just when I think I've seen all of you and all that you can be, you open out new facets, offer new insights, demonstrate new depths of compassion. Such an amazing herd of cats you turn out to be!

\* \* \* \*

On the process of opening, author Anais Nin observed that for each of us, "the day [comes] when the risk to remain tight in a bud [is] more painful than the risk it [takes] to blossom." As we finally see those tight buds unfolding all around us in these last days of April, where in your life is blossoming occurring? What places in you are still trying to remain curled tightly shut, and what will it take for those places to move into the lesser pain of opening? May this springtime bring a shift in all aspects of your life, so that you find yourself flowering everywhere, both in ways you expect and in ways you never thought to see.

Faithfully,

Kathy

## May Volunteer of the Month: Betty Blair

"My husband Art and I attended a BUC service for the first time on Easter Sunday, April 2001. We were so impressed with the sermon's message, the beautiful music and warm, friendly people that we signed the book in May. We became greeters almost immediately, worked in the Holiday Room for Rummage and supported the Capek Woods project. Art joined the Music Committee. I tutored in the WHRC school project for eleven years, organized and led the Historical Biographies Book Club and became active in Alliance. After Art died, I served on the music committee - an especially gratifying experience. I am proud to help support the excellent music program delivered by our talented music staff, choir, Sound Messengers and guest musicians. I also helped reorganize Alliance and am a member of that group's committee. Volunteering at BUC is a vital part of my life. Each activity gives me a connection to something meaningful. Each project teaches me a lesson. Each person I work with helps me become a better person. Thank you BUC. You have done so much more for me than I could ever do for you." - Betty Blair



Betty on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 the day before her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## Sunday Morning Discussion Group

We will meet on May 8th on the Stone Reader essay, "The Importance of the Afterlife. Seriously." by Samuel Scheffler. The Socrates Cafe format has been discontinued.

We welcome suggestions for future essay discussions for May 15th and 22nd. We will not meet on May 29th, which is Memorial Day weekend. Everyone is welcome, including those who have not read the essays to be discussed.

## Bereavement Group, Tuesday May 3

Our grief support group will meet on May 3rd from 4 to 5:30 in the sanctuary due to the Rummage Sale. Facilitated by Pat Kridler.

## Humanist Group, May 22

We will meet on May 22nd at noon in the Green Door classroom with Ben Gable as speaker. Ben will be speaking on "Humanism in the Larger UU Movement." A light lunch will be served at noon, and the program will begin at 12:30.

## Green Sanctuary: MY VOTE & Our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle

There's an old expression, "every vote counts!" Just before our recent Primary election, I filled in my ballot and returned it to the town hall in my little village. Feels good. The problem is that we only get to do this once or twice a year.

Now, it's time to focus on planning the evening meal—peeling, cutting, slicing, and dicing. When I peel the carrot, when I chop the onion, when I slice and dice, I think about the food, about the Michigan farmer who grew the veg, raised the chicken, and did it all without hormones or pesticides.

It's earth justice. In one sense, we have many votes—every dollar we spend is like a vote. If I want a new area rug, it is important to know where the rug was made and by whom. It is essential to know that children were not enslaved in the process of making the rug; it is crucial to know that adults, paid a living wage, made the rug.

I don't know about you, but I seldom buy a rug. However, every single week I buy food, beverages, and various sundry items. Each apple, each cabbage, each egg has a price tag. That price tag equates to dollars I spend every week, spend intentionally at our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Somewhere between 80 and 90% of all we consume is grown/raised here in Michigan in a sustainable, usually organic, way.

Yes, folks, every dollar we spend is akin to a vote. How we spend our money is the most powerful vote we have for the kind of world we want. When I pay a little more for locally, sustainably grown/raised food, it means I need to give up something else. We all have choices to make, and our household has made a conscious decision to give up some things in order to ensure that whatever we buy does no harm to someone else or the planet. Of course, we slip up sometimes; after all, we're only human!

As Unitarian Universalists, we all make decisions every single day on where to spend our dollars. I like to remember our 7th Principle and our interconnectedness. It makes trying to live the Principle a little easier. As we've all heard at worship, the Principles aren't just pretty words—they are similar to a goal. To consistently work toward that goal is simpler for me when I think of each dollar as a vote.

Give it a try, and vote your dollars well. ~Donna Larkin Mohr, May 2016

# Effortless Meditation, May 11 & 18 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Effortless Meditation led by Denise Everheart trained by the International Association of Human Values, will meet two Wednesdays in May.

May 11: Meditate and Mingle – enjoy a guided meditation followed by refreshments and conversation. Chairs will be available. You may bring something light and healthy to share for after the meditation if you like, completely optional! – in the Commons

May 18: Aura guided meditation. – Green Door Room off the Courtyard



## Rummage Spring 2016!



## Download the BUC Directory App – Step-by-Step



1<sup>st</sup> Touch the App store icon



2<sup>nd</sup> Touch the search icon



3<sup>rd</sup> Type Instant Church Directory



4<sup>th</sup> touch the download icon



5<sup>th</sup> type in your address that is in the directory, then open you email to get the one-time password



Lastly, go to your home screen, touch the directory icon and type in your password – and it will download!



## Music at BUC

This month gives us a chance to have the Sound Messengers in services one more time before the summer. Hear them on May 15 as Reverend Mark Belletini presides over the service. Guest fiddler Ben Ensroth will join the band. Special thanks to Kelly Taylor (the blonde with the big smile, and her hand raised high) who has been singing with the band for a couple of years. Her last time with us was in April, and now she'll be working as a Worship Associate. Great singing, Kelly! We will miss you. Also thanks to spirited crooner Craig Stroup who was guest vocalist in April. Expect to see him sing with the band again in the future ~ Craig is becoming a "regular".

Choir member Kaye Rittinger suffered an accident in April and is recuperating at Woodward Hills. Several of the choir members went to visit with her, and "rehearse" with her. With no director, no instrument, and music we didn't know very well it was challenging. But we ended up singing *Blue Boat Home* and Kaye enjoyed the visit. You can see and hear us on BUC's Facebook page in a video taken by Joanne Copeland.

Choir is busy preparing for Choir Sunday service, which will be funny, poignant and moving. Join us for their annual service, which combines choir singing with personal reflections and readings as we honor "Celestial Beings". Questions or ideas about the music program at BUC may be directed to Steven or Abha Dearing at [abha.dearing@bucmi.org](mailto:abha.dearing@bucmi.org) or [Steven.dearing@bucmi.org](mailto:Steven.dearing@bucmi.org)



Special Sunday Programs

Sunday, May 29  
Memorial Day Service in the Glen

\* 11:45 a.m. Join us in remembering members and loved ones who have died during the year, and commemorating the names added to the cenotaphs for 2016. Chairs will be provided and the Dearing's will provide music.




# Service & Justice News May 2016

## May Plate Collection Recipient: Greening of Detroit

### Greening of Detroit – Plantings on May 14 & 21

Each year BUC volunteers plant trees in Detroit with other Greening volunteers. Join us on either May 14 or 21! Planting is 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. More info is available thru Paul Plante at [pplante@twmi.rr.com](mailto:pplante@twmi.rr.com) or online at [greeningofdetroit.com](http://greeningofdetroit.com). Contact Paul or sign up at BUC after Service thru May 8. Greening's mission is "Inspiring sustainable growth of a healthy urban community through trees, green spaces, food, education, training and job opportunities." Volunteers and staff planted 2,881 trees in 2015.



### Interfaith Reproductive Justice Conference – May 20

Join others from multiple faith traditions to gain inspiration, knowledge, and skills to amplify the voices of reproductive justice advocacy. This conference will feature speakers from three national organizations and a panel on "How Five Faith Teachings Support Reproductive Justice" featuring UU Midland minister Jeff Liebman and reps from four other faiths. Maddi Crawford will help deliver a workshop on Sex Ed in Congregations.

Friday, May 20, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint.  
Register at [uujustice.org](http://uujustice.org) or contact Mary Jo Ebert for a registration form

## Baldwin Center Summer Program



What skill or topic could you offer to 1st thru 6th graders in a summer program at Baldwin Center in Pontiac? Can you flex your work or other daytime schedule to lead or assist with a unique learning opportunity for these great kids? We're starting the planning for our summer program, which has consisted of one week of workshop-type classes August during the last three summers. There may be opportunities for alternate scheduling this year. Contact any BUC staff member or Mary Jo Ebert.

### Service & Justice Contacts

BUC Service & Justice Chair: Mary Jo Ebert

MUUSJN (Michigan UU Social Justice Network): [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org)

UU Service Committee (UUSC): [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

## Religious Education

### Children's Rotation Curriculum

The Children's program will continue with its Spiritual Leaders workshops, focusing on the teachings of significant prophets and spiritual leaders from many different faiths.

ROPE Sunday: June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30

### Youth Religious Ceremonies

If you have been attending BUC all year, you have heard repeated references to our Rite of Passage Experience or ROPE class. This Coming of Age program for our 13 & 14 year-old youth gives them an opportunity to examine religious ideas from various sources, including family members and congregants, to help them distill some of their own thoughts. The program culminates in the ROPE service at which this year's class will present their personal credos. This ceremony marks a very important transition in the lives of our youth. With the support of the congregation, it will be especially meaningful and memorable. Please join us!

Bridging Sunday: June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30

When our high school seniors graduate, we have a Bridging Sunday service where we ceremonially and symbolically celebrate their crossing over from our Religious Education program to the adult program and their adventures in life beyond high school. This is always a delightful celebration, and we hope you will join us.

#### Youth Religious Education

The 6th and 7th graders will have a church service day on May 1 to help set up the semiannual Rummage sale. On May 8 and 15, they will learn about Zoroastrianism and the early stages of Western religion. On May 22, they will take a look back over the year, welcome the 5th graders who will be moving into the youth program, and recognize the 7th graders who are moving on to OWL and ROPE. Everyone will be invited to bring foods that reflect some of the cultures we have studied this year. Many, many thanks to our 2015-16 6&7 teachers: Debbie Fordree, Steve Lorey, and Bruce Webber (fall), and Steve Lorey, LuAnne Holder, and Latika Mangrulkar (winter and spring). Special thanks to Viola Newman for providing extensive classroom support!

ROPE (Rite of Passage Experience): The ROPE class will return from their UU Boston Heritage trip on May 1st, accompanied by advisors Carey Wendell, Bruce Webber, and Glenn Hoffrichter and RE Assistant Beth Lorey. Once they return, we will throw ourselves into preparing for ROPE Sunday, polishing credos, discussing worship, and rehearsing. ROPE rehearsal is June 4, from 9 to 1 in the Sanctuary to prepare for the service on June 5 (see above). The ROPE youth will be welcomed into the high school youth program at the GUUSH-ROPE picnic at the home of Kimery Campbell and Bill Fox on the evening of June 5. Watch your inbox for details. And, again, many thanks to our Coming of Age adult leaders, including OWL teachers Dave Graham, Alison Rule, and Vickie Muir. May's Sunday morning High School class will continue with their Truth and Equity workshops, exploring the gray area between what we aim to do and what we are actually able to do as members of a democracy.

GUUSH (Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High) will focus on end-of-year events: the Rummage sleepover on May 5; a Homelessness Awareness Event on May 20; and the GUUSH-ROPE picnic on June 5. Please make sure Kimery has your email address (or join the GUUSH Facebook page) so that you will be notified about upcoming meetings. Many, many thanks to our faithful GUUSH advisors: Walter Dean, Kat McMullen, Tom Cranston, Bill Fox, and Paul Plante.

Questions about Youth RE can be addressed to Kimery Campbell at [kimery.campbell@bucmi.org](mailto:kimery.campbell@bucmi.org)



*Thanks to BUC's Chris Fick for the design!*



**Order Your BUC T-Shirt Today!**

Stop by the table in the Social Hall to order your very own BUC shirt. Wonderful to wear at your favorite activities; perfect for UUA General Assembly.

All Sizes available — 100% cotton pre-shrunk jersey  
 Delivery here in May  
 \$10 adult/\$5 youth

Join Us

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**June 23 - 26**



Registration opens on March 1 for the 2016 UU General Assembly; “Heart Land; where faiths connect” in Columbus Ohio on June 23 – 26. [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) Buy your BUC t-shirt in the social hall come April and plan to join 2000 other UUs for singing, worship, lectures, workshops, shared meals and a generally uplifting four days.

Green Sanctuary celebrates our interconnected web of existence

**First BUC Campus Bird of the Week:**  
**Red-winged Blackbird**



Female



Male

*Photographer: Marvin Fleisber*

It is definitely a sure sign of spring when we hear this male's call from our pond area, kon-ka-reeee!

Males arrive first to stake out and defend the best nesting area, and impress the ladies with their chosen spot and colorful wing bars.

During the month of May, the Green Sanctuary Committee will be featuring a different bird each week on a slide like this in the weekly email. These birds are all fairly common to wildlife areas in Michigan, and are often found in the Capek Woods and pond area in BUC's certified wildlife habitat. Join us in celebrating the interconnected web by learning about these beautiful creatures.

## Green Caregivers a.k.a. Capek Woods



April 17th's green caregivers workday was successful! Many people were unable to come on this alternate date, but enough people did come to finish our project. We're thinking of trying to do this once a month from now until October/November.

The 'best' dates for after Sunday work groups in May are:

May 15 (after the town Hall Meeting) ~ 12:45 PM to 2 PM

May 22 (after BUC annual meeting) ~ 12:45 to 2 PM

Possible activities:

1. Harper pointed out that plantings in the front of the church entrance will be destroyed during construction. May may (pun) be our last chance to salvage them. We'd

have to check with 'someone' to see if there is a place for these plants in the post construction landscape. Also, could we safely transition the plants in the curbed area near the dumpster until the re-landscaping occurs?

2. If we have Plantwise (our restoration service) cut down 1 or 2 Amur Maples, volunteers could do the more time intensive job of sawing up and stacking the wood .

(For those who are wondering why we would cut down more trees: to be able to replant with more native trees/shrubs.)

3. Tree survey, retagging of trees with Pat Hammer.

4. Garlic mustard removal and general weeding of front natural gardens.

(Note: We are trying to hire youth to help pull garlic mustard. Tuesday mornings from 10-12 p.m. a group is meeting to weed.



Pictured here after working hard on April 17 are: Stephanie Patil, Kerrie McMillen, Margaret Marsh, Harper West, Eric Sargent, Heather Aymer, and Karen Stankeye.

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Birmingham Unitarian Church  
38651 Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills MI 48304  
www.ducmi.org

Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 1

## “Service to Self, Service to Others”

Ed Sharples will lead the service. With rummage on our doorstep and a week of sorting, pricing, and selling ahead of us, it seems appropriate to think about service. During the worship hour, we will do some traditional things as well as some unorthodox ones. Assisting in the program will be worship associates Bill Fox, Sara Constantakis and Teresa Honnold. In music, Ed Sharples will lead the congregation in singing old rummage songs to get everyone revved up!

