

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

April 2011

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.*

***APRIL 10 - ONE SERVICE 10:30 a.m.**

April 3: "Spellbound"

In a culture that encourages aiming for goals and a driven lifestyle, how do we understand the times in our lives when we drift, feeling aimless and without purpose? Kathy and Worship Associate Elaine Morse reflect on the meaning of detours and hiatuses as stages of spiritual growth.

April 10: ONE SERVICE 10:30

Paul Vachon, BUC member and freelance writer, will reflect on the life and work of architect Minoru Yamasaki, designer of BUC and other iconic buildings in Michigan and worldwide. Yamasaki had a passion for social justice that shaped his work and his life choices.

April 10: Installation of Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt as Senior Minister 3:00 p.m.

Childcare available



"An installation service is a formal ceremony somewhat like a wedding, in which two parties—in this case, the congregation and the minister—make promises to one another about how they intend their relationship to unfold. Those promises typically include a commitment to respectful engagement, to support through times of ease and times of difficulty, to grow

and to facilitate the growth of the other, to honor one another's hopes and dreams, to maintain healthy boundaries, to seek to build trust. To make these

promises in our BUC sanctuary, a place made sacred in memory and hope, is to lift them beyond the mere sharing of lovely words, to grant them a dimension of meaning that we will carry with us wherever our journey in ministry takes us.

For me, such a commitment becomes indelibly engraved on my heart when I am able to see your faces while I speak the words of promise to you. Your actual presence on that day matters to the other members of the congregation who will share in the service—and it matters the world to me. I do hope you can attend the installation service on the 10th

Love, Kathy"

April 17: "Sacred Ecology"

This Earth Day service celebrates the work of BUC's Green Sanctuary Committee and considers the spiritual challenge of caring for the environment, in a service led by Kathy and Green Sanctuary Committee Chair and Worship Associate Dan Kosuth.

April 24: "The Only Thing That Happens"

Easter is a season filled with miracles, with stories from a variety of traditions highlighting natural and supernatural events that seem out of the ordinary. Kathy and Worship Associate Lisa Demian explore the ways in which a spiritual perspective might include both rationality and room for the miraculous.

South Oakland Community Lunch

The South Oakland Community Lunch Program provides a substantial lunch for about 75 homeless and low income individuals and families each Saturday at the Genesis Church in Royal Oak.

BUC will be cooking up its signature baked chicken on April 30. We need donations of food and cash, plus a kitchen crew. Signups begin the first Sunday in April - look for our table after each service in the social hall.

Plate Collection Committee

The Plate Collection Committee would like applications for charities to which we can donate 40% of our plate collection. Please take some time to think of a worthwhile charity you would like to suggest before our April 4 quarterly meeting. "Plate Collection Common Grant Applications" may be picked up in the office, or downloaded from our website, www.bucmi.org in the Directory section, under the heading "Church Business."

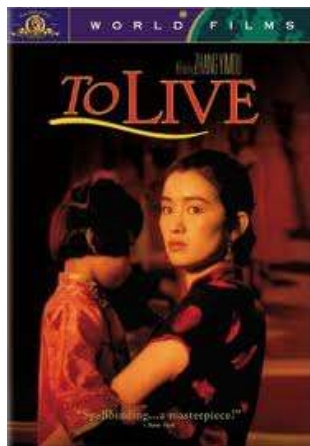
Film Buffs ~ April 22, 7:00

To Live, Friday, April, 22 at 7 p.m. in the Commons.

"Zhang Yimou, often regarded as China's leading contemporary filmmaker, directed this drama chronicling the ebb and flow of one family's fortunes, set against the backdrop of China's tumultuous history between the 1940s and the 1970s. While once a lazy spendthrift, Fugui vows to change his ways, and he struggles to become a better worker and citizen." ~ Mark Deming, Rovi

To Live (China, 1994, 133 minutes) is not rated. Besides fighting between the Nationalist forces and Red Army factions, the movie contains a very bloody scene because a competent doctor is not available to treat a patient.

Snacks provided. For more information contact Larry at 248-569-0965 or LarryWisniew@att.net.



All Church Work Day

Saturday April 23, 2011

Mark your calendar! The next "All Church Work Day" will be Saturday April 23 from 8:30am until about noon. This is a great chance to get to know your fellow BUC'ers and help care for our beautiful grounds and buildings. We also plan on cleaning out and reorganizing some of our storage areas. Contact Fred Straky (248) 373-4942 or fredstraky@att.net if you have any questions.

Sacred and Profane Discussions

Everything is connected. What is sacred and profane especially so. We found that there is no "cheap and easy" forgiveness—there are demands for learning, which is the sometimes fearful path to understanding. And forgiveness without understanding is a hollow and pitiable outcome.

Forgiveness is accomplished when untangled with fear. The key ingredient to disengage fear is courage. Edward Weeks said: "To live in fear and not be afraid is the final test of maturity." Fear cannot and should not preclude action that is right, just, and necessary. *How do our Unitarian Universalists roots call us to overcome fear, tap courage, and conduct the good fight?*

These discussions are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at BUC. Our next meeting is April 20, from 10:30 to noon. Roger Marshall will be our conversation host. Thanks to John Ballantyne for hosting an excellent conversation at our last gathering on *Forgiveness*.

Sunday Morning Discussion

This drop in group meets on Sundays **at 9:30 a.m.** in the Large Conference Room. Bring a cup of coffee from the social hall and join in one or more of these group-facilitated discussions. The topic through April will be "Compassion." Everyone is welcome to attend.

Repertory Theatre Benefit

(BUC-WHRC School Partnership) is planning a performance of the play "Forgiving John Lennon" at the Detroit Repertory Theatre to benefit the Pontiac intercity WHRC Elementary School. As many of you know, over the years many members of our church community have volunteered many hours and have generously contributed resources to the school. These contributions have had significant impact on the children, their families and the school community. Please join with other members of our church community to support the WHRC school community at the Detroit Repertory Theatre for a benefit performance on Saturday May 7 at 8:30 (reception at 7:30). Tickets are \$40 (~\$30 per ticket will be a contribution to the activities we support at the school). Tickets will be available between services and after second service or you can contact George Lentz at [248-346-4039](tel:248-346-4039); geolentz@gmail.com. Thank you.

Connections - Joys & Sorrows

Barbara Kandarian, a former BUC member, died February 25. Barbara graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Arts, a Masters in Education and a Masters of Social Work. Her Memorial Service will be April 9, 2011 at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, Hayward, California. Memorials suggested to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Marion Foster, long time friend of BUC died on February 27 after a very long bout with cancer. Marion was a devoted Rummage volunteer for many years. Her only son, Earl Foster, III will be having a memorial service for her at BUC on Saturday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m.

Grace Rising recently visited Shirley and Ernie Hodas, founding members of BUC at their home in Arizona. They are in good spirits and good health and wanted to say, "Hello" to all their BUC friends.

In mid-March, Cameron, Stuart, and Madeleine Crawford's father was diagnosed with Stage IV Lung Cancer with metastasis to his kidneys and adrenal glands. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

Miyo O'Neil wanted to let all those who expressed concern over her daughter's grave fall and injury six months ago, that she is recovering and progressing and is ready to return to work, part-time.

Tom Cranston wished to express his appreciation for all the well wishes and thoughts after his brief hospital stay a few weeks ago. He is being monitored and treated and unfortunately, unable to drive for six months due to the seizures.

Picture Directory Apr 18-23!

Calling all BUC family & friends... please sign up in the Social today for your BUC picture directory sitting. There is **no cost**, you get a **free 8X10**, a hard copy of the directory for your time and trouble and in turn everyone in the church community will receive the benefit of putting names with faces here @ BUC. You may also sign up by using the link on BUC's website www.bucmi.org

Putting names with faces is a wonderful way to deepen connections and help newcomers feel connected.

MAMA's Coffee House, April 16

Jo Serrapere and the Willie Dunns

Jo Serrapere (sarah-pear) is a songwriter from Detroit, Michigan. Jo started playing guitar at 23 when seeking out lessons from Delta Blues guitarist, Shari Kane. Shortly thereafter, she began writing her own songs. Her eclectic writing and performance fuses elements of various modern and traditional folk music, old-time and electric blues styles, roots rock, garage surf, swing, hot jazz and alt-country. Jo's band, the Willie Dunns brings added depth and musical styling to Jo's original songs as well as classics from such artists as Mississippi John Hurt, Bessie Smith and Tom Waits.



Matt Brown will open. Matt performs American roots music with a deft touch and a smile. . Shows begin at 8:00 p.m. – Doors open at 7:00.

Memorial Glen

The Glen is a special place, an outdoor meditative space, a destination at the end of a spiritual path, a place for remembrance and memorialization of members, friends and relatives of BUC members. The Memorial Glen committee wishes to let members and friends know that names of members, relatives and friends of BUC who have passed, may have names engraved into the granite cenotaphs in May, and added to the official Death Register, prior to the annual Memorial Service, Sunday May 29th.



For additional information, and arrangements, please contact: Carol Lee, carolallmanlee@yahoo.com, Lisa Crawford and/or Rev. Kathy Hurt

Reflections

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



Despite our reputation for being inarticulate when it comes time to describe our faith, most Unitarian Universalists can tell you our first and our seventh principles. Like bookends, these two principles set parameters for our existence: the first principle insists on individual worth and dignity, while the seventh principle affirms an essential relatedness through the image of the “interdependent web of existence of which all of us are a part.” It may be tempting at times to experience ourselves as cut off from one another, disconnected from others or from the natural world. Yet the web imagery suggests otherwise; whether we know it or not, we are never apart from any part of life.

Yet the image of a web cuts two ways, for a web can be experienced as both supportive and as ensnaring. Just as spiders use webs to trap insects and fishermen use nets to catch fish, the experience of being part of the interdependent web of existence may inspire us to struggle against it, to thrash about in an effort to break free. On the other hand, a supportive web keeps us from falling, much as the net beneath trapeze artists protects them from crashing into the ground.

April marks the celebration of Earth Day, a time to recall and recommit to honoring the connections of the web that bind us to the natural world. This particular April, as fears of radiation fallout from the damaged nuclear reactors from Japan and frustrations at high gasoline prices due to Middle East unrest fill our awareness, reflecting on the web may be less inspiring. This seems one of those moments when breaking loose from the web, so that negative events elsewhere lost the power to influence our lives here, looks appealing. At the same time, the web of connections invites an outpouring of compassion for the Japanese people being displaced and cheers for the brave citizens demanding democracy in states long ruled by oil-rich autocrats.

Supportive or ensnaring? How we experience the web seems to be rooted in whether we regard the web as benign, indifferent, or hostile, and whether that understanding of the web inspires trust, suspicion, or fear. Trapeze artists undoubtedly see the web as a friend, while insects do well to be on guard against the webs of spider foes. The seventh principle calls us to respect the web. We hope that respect comes less from fear, and more from affection.

Faithfully, Kathy



Please join your fellow community members at BUC on **Monday, April 11 6:00 – 8:00** p.m. to discuss how development of the exciting **Woodward Light Rail Project** will affect all of us in Metro Detroit.

What is the Woodward Light Rail Project?

It is a Detroit Department of Transportation Project, in partnership with private business and civic leaders (M-1 Rail), that will provide light rail service on Woodward Avenue in Detroit from Jefferson to 8 Mile Road, in two phases. Construction is expected to begin in 2012, funded by private investment and federal grants.

Why Woodward Light Rail?

Woodward Avenue was identified as the busiest corridor in the city where light rail could better help move residents, workers, students, and visitors ... and stimulate economic growth.

What are these community events?

These public forums are put together by interested community groups, businesses and individuals to help spread the word about the project, discuss ideas and concerns, and gather input. There have been several forums in Detroit ... this will be the first in Oakland County! Contact, Michael Tasse 313 962 5290 ext 16 or at mtasse@mosesmi.org

Children's Religious Education

Eleanor McGuire, Director of Religious Education for Children



April's *Fair Start* rotation stems from a larger objective of sharing with our children some of the different ways that our church works to uphold its principles, particularly our Second Principle, which affirms the importance of equity for all people. The Fair Start rotation addresses the reality that not all children have the necessary opportunities and material circumstances that they need as they start their lives. It asks two main questions: How are children's circumstances different, even in our own community? How does our church work to address these differences?

The **History** workshop focuses on whether all children get enough to eat - and the right foods to eat - to be healthy. Our church works in two ways to address children's nutritional needs within our community: through ongoing collections for the Lighthouse food pantry in Pontiac, which offers emergency and long-term supplemental food, and through participation in the Royal Oak Lunch program, which serves Saturday lunches to the needy.

The **Storytelling** workshop emphasizes that all children deserve adequate shelter as a basic human right. Our children will explore the role of a community in assisting with the difficult and costly task of securing adequate shelter. Our church works to provide both short-term and long-term housing for people in need: every fall BUC hosts the South Oakland Shelter for one week, and several times a year, members of BUC assist with the building projects of the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

The **Art** workshop explores with our children the disadvantages faced by people who cannot read. This workshop focuses on the ways that BUC works to ensure that every child receives a good education, both through its partnership with Whitmer Human Resource Center in Pontiac and through its support for Fair Trade coffee and chocolate. BUC serves and sells these Fair Trade products in order to support the right of every family to earn a livable wage, thereby enabling those families to be able to send their children to school.

The **Science** workshop reinforces the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee belief that access to a clean water supply is a basic human right. Worldwide, children are especially vulnerable to illnesses contracted from unsafe water. This workshop explores the different ways that water can become contaminated as well as several simple ways to provide clean water to both individuals as well as communities. Please contact Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE, with questions at:

eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org

Communities United For Children

We would like to thank all the BUC members who donated beds, linens, towels, dishes, pots and pans, an entertainment center, clothing and many other items to our family in need. We would also like to thank everyone who has placed food in our blue food contribution bin. We are now sending home food to 15 families every Friday. Does anyone have a washer and/or dryer to donate?

CUFC/WHRC Chess Club

Our chess club met with 10th graders from Notre Dame Prep on Friday, March 11. They made us very proud. Our 6th graders were teaching chess to the 10th graders! We would like to enlarge the club, but we need help to do this. We need more chess tutors, clocks, books and chess sets. We will need about \$400.00 to be able to buy enough supplies for the chess club for this year and next year (using a matching grant program for the books). For information on chess tutoring, donating chess sets or money for our materials, please call Chris or Ray McNally at 248-875-1114.



Youth Religious Education

Laura Ross, Director of Religious Education for Youth



Youth Sunday

Thank you to the 6th/7th, 8th grade (Rite Of Passage Experience), High School and GUUSH (Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High) youth who worked so hard to provide us with such an inspiring and fun service on Youth Sunday. Cookie Communion, if you missed it, can be reproduced at home by savoring your favorite cookie while singing “C” is for Cookie” at the top of your lungs. Everyone benefitted from the insight the youth gave us into

relishing not only cookies, but the other fantastic aspects of being and remaining youthful. Well done!



Youth Fundraisers:

Thank you is due the whole congregation, family and friends for your support of all of the Youth fundraisers. This includes your participation in the latest, the Pancake Breakfast, where 144 of you partook of pancakes piled high with toppings. While all of our youth benefit, many of these fundraisers are pointed towards helping our eighth grade Rite of Passage Experience youth travel to Boston, Massachusetts for four days over the last weekend in April.

If you would like details about the ROPE program, or any other Youth program, please contact me at laura.worleyross@bucmi.org, or call: 248-647-2380 x14. I am in the office Tuesdays – Thursdays, but would be happy to arrange another time to chat, if you prefer.

In peace, Laura Worley (Ross), Director of Religious Education for Youth

Youth Calendar:

April 3 and 10: GUUSH (Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High) Meetings. 6 – 8p, Red Door. All 9th – 12th grade youth are welcome.

April 3: GUUSH Leadership meeting 5:00– 6:00 p.m.

April 9, Saturday: SWING DANCE, a ROPE benefit. 7:30 – 10:30p.\$5. ALL ages— 5 to 99. A professional swing dance instructor will share our evening so we can all (try to) dance like the stars!!

April 15 – 17: High School Our Whole Lives for 10th – 12th grades. Mandatory Parent meeting was March 27. If your youth would like to attend the weekend, please contact DRE for Youth Laura Worley immediately to make arrangements for an orientation.

April 16, Saturday: 6p-10p. ROPE Babysitting Night. \$25 for one child, \$10extra for each sibling. Enjoy a well-deserved night out while the capable ROPE youth care for and entertain your children. Signup sheets are in the orders of service, or contact laura.worleyross@bucmi.org.

April 17: ROPE parent & Youth pre-Boston meeting. 10:30 a.m. in the Commons.

April 23: GUUSH Freedom House 10:00-Noon, Lunch Noon-1:00 in Corktown. Water park opportunity in the afternoon for those interested.

April 28 – May 1: ROPE Boston Heritage Trip.

Alliance in April

Honorable Justice Marilyn Kelly will speak to Alliance Wednesday, April 20 for the last regular program meeting of the 2010-2011 year. Our final event will be the annual meeting on June 8, a catered luncheon with entertainment after a brief business meeting. Details will be announced April 20. Our last Brown Bag. Lunch will be held in the Pavilion at Noon. Alliance will supply beverages and our generous baker-members will provide home-baked-cookies.. The program will begin at 1:00 in the Commons. Everyone is welcome.

Justice Kelly's topic is How Should the Michigan Supreme Court Justices be Selected? She is Co-Chair of the Judicial Selection Task Force studying this matter which has been a pertinent political issue. We are especially privileged to have this opportunity to hear about this important question from her. We also value her as a long time member of BUC.



Justice Kelly has been on the Michigan Supreme Court since 1996 and served as Chief Justice from 2008 through 2010. She has long been a public servant. She was a member of the State Board of Education for 12 years and was a judge in the Michigan Court of Appeals for 8 years. She was nominated for the high court by the Democratic Party and elected in November, 1996.

This is a program not to be missed so mark your calendar to be with us. see you April 20 --- and June 8.

BUC TALENT & SERVICE AUCTION **Motown Market**

A huge Motown thanks goes out to all the people who contributed to the sensational success of the Motown Market on Saturday, March 12. We had a very successful event raising over \$20,000 for the church.

Thank you to the many volunteers, donors, bidders, businesses and attendees who helped make this church-wide event a lively and well-attended evening.

Auction activity is winding down, and now the fun begins. Enjoy the "Getting to Know UU" part of the auction, as bidders and donors come together. Whether you meet for a meal, to receive a service or talent or lesson, or to attend a special cultural event, we wish you good times together.

It is the responsibility of the successful bidder to schedule their time together with the donor of the item. Donor contact information is in the BUC directory.

Thanks again to the Auction Committee members, for their hard work and tireless enthusiasm. They were a great crew!

Dick Cantley, Joanne Copeland, Barb Eschner, Mary Jo Ebert, Mary Gowel-Ensroth, Julia Gragg, Teresa Honnold, Don Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Jane MacFarlane, Kat McMullen, Gail Rouse, Sheila Seaver and Amy Smalley

~ Marcia Mahood

Our BUC Facility: A Building Update

The past month has been a very productive month for the Facilities committee. We have been busy discussing, investigating the cost of, and scheduling projects in and around the church. The projects include:

SOCIAL HALL FURNACE NOISE: It is finally warm and quiet at the same time in the Social Hall. The HVAC ducts that service the furnace in this area have been insulated to lessen sound from the ducts as they contract and expand.

WINDOW CLEANING: Hopefully looking out of (and into) the building, windows are clearer. The exterior windows around the entire building and the skylights both inside and out were cleaned by a professional window cleaning company last week.

CARPET REPLACEMENT: Replacement of the carpeting will begin on Friday, April 1 (no fooling) and continue until it is completed. Carpeting in the main entry, gallery, pavilion, and back of the sanctuary will be replaced. Border carpet will also be installed in the lower classroom level around the perimeter as the carpet is fraying along the door openings. When possible, the old carpeting that is in good shape will be saved and used for patching in the areas not receiving new carpet. All other carpet removed will be recycled; the new carpet is Eco friendly.

MARSHALL COURTYARD: The contract with WK Construction was approved at the Facilities meeting in February for demolition and replacement of most of the concrete in the courtyard and the hand railing. Work will begin as soon as weather permits (expect early April) and will be coordinated around Rummage the week of May 1. Replacement of the concrete and railing will be completed by Memorial weekend.

RECYCLE DUMPSTER PAD: A new dumpster pad will be installed next to the current pad when the Marshall Courtyard concrete replacement occurs. Veolia Environmental, our trash contractor, has agreed to provide a recycle dumpster to be emptied once each month at **no** additional cost. The recycle dumpster will be for BUC use only.

NEW CHAIRS AND FILE CABINETS:

Kirco Management Services, a local property management company, purchased an office building in Dearborn Michigan in early March. Although the building was vacant, it was full of Steelcase office furniture that had to be moved out for renovations. As Rummage has taught us, one person's old stuff is another person's treasure. We were fortunate to be the recipient of 65 office chairs, 12 file cabinets, 5 white boards and a nice wood conference table – real treasures to BUC.

Please take a moment to thank Drieka DeGraff who spent many hours measuring, counting and determining what was needed and would fit in all of the rooms at BUC; John Hammer for renting and driving the 24' truck required to move the furniture; Dave Bredenberg for doing all of the heavy lifting and moving of furniture; Jackie Bredenberg for locating and gathering together several recycle containers at the vacant office building. BUC will use for its new recycle program (she also provided much appreciated brawn in moving furniture); and Carol Wiseman and Inta Davis for assisting Drieka in moving the 65 chairs out and in both buildings. Additionally, a big THANK YOU to John and Emily Arnold who rescued Dave and helped move several heavy file cabinets from the truck and into BUC.



PAINTING: Bids were sought and the Sanctuary, Pavilion, Gallery and Foyer. BUC accepted the bid of \$6,850. Painting began the first week in April.

HANGING SYSTEM FOR ART GALLERY: The art gallery is an area enjoyed by both BUC members and visitors. At this time, the artwork is hung on the walls using nails. In a short time, the walls look a mess since the art varies in size. BUC is blessed with several talented architects. One of those talented architects, Frank Arvan has agreed to design a hanging system for the gallery that Jim Dean, the part-time maintenance tech at BUC can construct and install. This will save our walls and keep them looking beautiful once they are painted. Thanks Frank!

AUTOMATIC DOOR OPENERS: Automatic door openers from the outdoors into the sanctuary by the Bridal room will be installed soon. The Memorials & Tribute committee has graciously offered to pay for the door openers. The funds budgeted for this project will be used for interior painting at BUC.

EXTERIOR LANDSCAPE PLAN: The Facilities committee has agreed that an exterior landscape plan that addresses and coordinates every area on the BUC grounds is needed. Much of the exterior landscape is tired and in poor condition. A landscape plan that considers the purpose and use of each area as well as coordinates them for a cohesive design is needed. These areas include but are not limited to: Woodward Ave entry and monument sign; Capek Woods; Memorial Glen; Lone Pine entry and monument sign; main church entries; and the Marshall Courtyard. We hope to develop a plan and cost estimates to present to the BUC membership. It will be a big project but an exciting one. The ultimate goal is to provide a facility that makes people say “WOW” while adhering to UU principles.

And finally, a topic UU churches find difficult to discuss – donations / pledges. Over the years, donations and pledges at BUC have decreased. And yet the cost to operate our facility has continued to increase. Many, many repairs and items in need of replacement have been deferred. Deferring these things has finally caught up with us – things are now in desperate need of attention and can no longer be deferred. As indicated above, several projects are underway, but the reality is, once these items are completed, the entire project budget for 2011 will have been spent. This means that no other projects can be addressed in 2011. You may have noticed the pot holes in the parking lot, the leaking skylights at the main entry, the tired landscape throughout the BUC grounds, the curling floor tile, etc. There is no money to correct these things in 2011. If you want this to change, everyone needs to dig a bit deeper and help us fund or raise funds to complete these projects. If you wish to help out with these projects, please talk with Rev. Hurt or the BUC board.

Together with you in service for BUC.

BUC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Green Sanctuary - Greener Church!

The Green Sanctuary Committee has been asked by Facilities Committee to prepare an enlarged unified RECYCLING program for BUC, its members and friends. They will be asking a group of active stakeholders including staff from office, Kitchen (Indulgences), Jason, recycling and composting experts, and other users to participate in organizing this program.

In June our current dumpster vendor Viola, will provide us with a free recycling dumpster for paper products. It will be placed next to our current trash dumpster.

Currently, Craig and Debbie Stroup are picking up paper products from the office and taking them to SOCCRA for recycling each week. We thank them for their ongoing effort and success. With spring arriving, new telephone books are being delivered. Please bring the **old telephone books** to church for recycling. The church will generate money for collecting and recycling them. All part of BUC's commitment to implementing a more comprehensive recycling program.

Spring Rummage May 1-7, 2011

Are you ready for spring breezes and birdsong floating in through the open window? Are you feeling the urge to shed winter coats, snow boots, and unneeded possessions? Great! Because BUC's spring rummage sale is right around the corner. And we, on the Rummage Committee, are happy to welcome Hillary Bishop as our new sign chief.

If you are new to BUC, you need to know that for one week each spring and fall, we turn the church into a Mecca for used clothing and household goods. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and get to know your fellow BUCers better, to share some wonderful meals, shop for great rummage, as well as donating things for which you no longer have a use. If you have been around for longer, you know the drill.

Sign-up will begin on Sunday, April 3 and continue after every service throughout the month. We encourage everyone to participate and remind folks that four hours of service or two food donations are required for early shopping privileges. There is a huge variety of Rummage jobs, from sorting to kitchen help to sale-time staffing to tear down on Saturday afternoon. Rummage drop-off begins on Sunday, May 1 and continues through noon on Tuesday May 3. The actual sale begins at 6:30 on Thursday, with half-price sales on Friday, Consolidation Friday night, and bag day Saturday from 9 to noon.

When packing your donations, please remember the following:

- We accept only flat-screen electronics
- We do not accept plastic cups, car seats, or bicycle helmets
- Truck pickup for bulky goods is available April 30 and May 1.- Soren Andersen at sign-up for details
- Sofa beds, worn furniture, mattresses, and other difficult-to-sell household goods may be donated directly to the Furniture Bank (info@furniture-bank.org or 248-332-1300). They pick up!

Please remember that there are fewer than 12 hours of actual rummage sale time. When reviewing your potential donations, please choose only things that are likely to sell in that time: clothing in good condition, working appliances, toys with all their parts, etc. It helps if you jumpstart the sorting process at home by putting clothing on hangers, sorted by age and gender; labeling all boxes with the appropriate department; and including instructions whenever possible. Remember that the ban on shabby goods does NOT apply to newspapers, magazines, and hard and soft cover books. Just label paper discards "recycle" and leave them with your rummage donations. Debbie Stroup, our Rummage Recycling Queen, will wave her magic green wand and turn them into dollars for BUC!

Thanks from the Welcome Inn

Our daytime shelter for the homeless in Royal Oak is grateful for all of the BUCers who stepped up to the plate to hit home runs for us this winter. Thanks to BUC's plate donation as well as to other generous churches and individuals, the Welcome Inn's budget is in the black!

We are grateful for the BUCers who went out of their way to purchase and deliver cartridges and computer paper, long winter underwear, jeans and underwear for the men, paper ware and cutlery, work boots, cough drops, cough medicine, Tums and toiletries.

These heroes who lugged things over to Crooks Road through snow, slush, wind, sleet and, sometimes, sunshine, were Margot LeRoy, Kate and Jim Mellet, Joy Powell, Laura McCulloch, Grace Brockett, Jeff Plachta, Brian and Barbara Schandavel, Dorothy Prier, Drieka DeGraff, Grace Rising, with Larry Friedman doing his weekly stint on the Monday morning team.

What you say is common clay
What you do is you
Annis Pratt.

From the Endowment Committee

Has BUC made a difference in your life?

You can help to ensure the same opportunity for future generations by including BUC in your estate planning – becoming a member of the Hallock Heritage Society. Save Sunday afternoon May 15 for a reception and briefing on how the endowment helps BUC's long-term financial stability. Watch for more information later this spring

Committee: Betty Blair, Donna Cunningham, Ron Fredrick, Dick Schwing
Nancy Jones, Chair

Advertisements ~ April 2011

Vianna Szabo P.S.A.

**Solo exhibition and sale
March 30th through April
28th BUC's Gallery**

Reception at BUC

April 8th 7-9pm.

Most of the paintings in this exhibit were created directly from life. For me the joy of painting comes from learning to observe without preconceived notions. Trusting the truth of sight and recognizing the beauty in everyday surroundings.



Downing Troy

Last chapter, closed by signs of NO.
Minds unseeing from wallet sized dreams,
hearts frozen in shackle's of mine and ours,
actions sequestered to paths marked
black and white, evil and good,
yes and no. Community wealth
ransomed to unexamined sound bites,
lawn signs of patriotic red and blue
toting phantom accountability.

Last chapter; words, ideas, study,
Rome's fall, Hamlet, Rite of Spring
and Springsteen, *Les Misérables*,
Peter Rabbit, Alice and Huck Finn,
humanities core empty behind
locked doors, a community
fountainhead ends without books
sent to ash, but no better the result.

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Ken Kauffman

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All Submissions for the Newsletter must be received by midnight on the 20th of each month for the following months newsletter to the editor lisa.crawford@bucmi.org