

# Birmingham Unitarian Church

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*"The Mission of the Birmingham Unitarian Church is to create a free and welcoming religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service, learning and joy."*

February 2012

## Worship Services @ BUC

9:30 and 11:15\*

*With Childcare & Children's Ed~ something for all ages*

## Needs Network @ Work

BUC, through the Needs Network group, once again participated in warming center efforts. Early on Sunday, January 29, a volunteer group laundered over 100 loads of linen for one of the Royal Oak nighttime warming centers. The volunteers included: Ilene Beninson, Carol Bradshaw, Lisa Crawford, Kathy DuHame, Ann Dunn, Elizabeth Harris, George Lentz, Stephen and Margaret Marsh, Vickie Muir, Elaine Morse, Alison Rule, Fred Straky, and Jan Wheelock.



### Feb. 5: "Just As I Am"

In this month when the experience of love is celebrated in the culture with Valentine's Day, our worship services explore the deeper dimensions of this most fundamental, most necessary, most complicated experience. Kathy and Worship Associate Lisa Demian begin the exploration with a consideration of self-love. Not mere egotism, often confused with narcissism, promoted by our culture in multiple unhealthy ways, being able truly to love oneself is the ground of being able to love another.

### Feb. 12: "You Love Me, You Love Me Not"

Songs and movies celebrate the joys and anguish of falling in love, people choose to marry believing they are in love forever, relationships form, thrive, and die based on the presence or absence of love. Kathy and

Worship Associate Camille Harris reflect on the mysteries of love in relationship.

### Feb. 19: "How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways"

While we share common images of what loving behavior looks like in action, each of us has our own individual ways of defining what does and does not constitute love. Those differing definitions can be a source of much grief in relationships. In this multigenerational service, Kathy, Worship Associate Stuart McAlpin, and Lifespan Team Member Pamela McAlpin consider the many ways we put love into action in our dealings with one another.

### Feb. 26: "Learning to Be White"

Using Rev. Thandeka's book of the same name as a starting point for an exploration of racial identity, privilege and power. What is "whiteness" and where does it come from?

Rev. Andrew Weber is a life-long UU from Pennsylvania. He went to seminary at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and spent a year in Dallas, TX for his ministerial internship. Andrew currently serves the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor as their Lead Youth Advisor.

## 32nd Annual Bakeoff & Soup Luncheon, Feb. 12

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Enjoy a delicious soup lunch from 12:30-2:00 for just \$4 (\$14 for a family of four or more) and bid on specialty-baked goods at our live and silent auctions! Proceeds benefit BUC's youth groups.

## Connections - Joys & Sorrows

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“Margaret Lefford's mother has died following a stroke. She was 96 years old. She traveled from England to visit us with some regularity, attended services with us at BUC, and became well known to our friends in the church” ~ Maurice Lefford

Bill Fox's father died at the age of 90 at the end of December. He had a memorial service at BUC on January 15. The Campbell-Fox family wishes to thank the congregation for all the support they received in the days following the death of Bill's father.

Catherine Baldwin's son, Jimmy Baldwin died on January 3 following a long struggle with brain cancer.

Justice Marilyn Kelly was recently placed in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony in East Lansing. She was inducted for her work with Women's Bar Association and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan."

Congratulations to Nancy and Dick Halsted who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and their 50th anniversary of membership at BUC.

Dave Greer's mother died on January 26 at the age of 93 in Mt. Vernon, Illinois after a brief time in Hospice care.

Paul Vachon's father is experiencing declining health. Positive thoughts most welcome.

Marilyn Kelly's mother died the third week in January. She would have been 105 this year. She used to visit BUC once a year with Marilyn when it was easier for her to get around.

“Dear Friends, My mother passed away on Sunday morning, January 29, in Sofia, after a long illness. I thank you for the continuous thoughts and prayers during the past year.” BUC pianist, Angelina Pashmakova

Pat Herbert, husband of Liz Buckner died Tuesday, January 31. He went peacefully after a ten year struggle from complications of stroke. Liz is with family and will be receiving those who wish to come to the house between 1:00 and

5:00 Thursday or Friday. Services will be Saturday February 4, 3:00, at Northwest UU Church in Southfield where Pat was a member.

BUC member Louise Angermeier died following a long battle with cancer late, January 31. She was in the company of her long-time partner, her two sons, and some good friends. Louise has frequently offered her gifts as pianist here at the church, serving last year for several months when BUC's staff pianist was on an extended personal leave and briefly as Interim Choir Director until she became too ill to serve. She served BUC twice on subsequent Music Director Search Committees. A Memorial Service is being held at BUC on Sunday, February 12, at 6:30.

## Sharing Dinners

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It's Not Too Late to Join Sharing Dinners

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

Remaining dinners dates: Feb. 11\*, Mar 10, April 14, and May 12. You can even sign up as an alternate, to be called if a sub is needed. Contact Carol Lee [carolallmanlee@yahoo.com](mailto:carolallmanlee@yahoo.com) 248-652-9427 to be included.

\*The February dinner is an annual event at which all participants dine together at the church.

## Getting to know UU Session IV Wednesday, Feb. 29

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Join us at 7:00 on Wednesday, February 29 for session four in our “Getting to Know UU” series. If you're interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and deepening your connections at BUC, join us in the Commons from 7:00-9:00. Attendance of previous sessions is not necessary for participation in this session. This session will focus on “Unitarian Universalism in the World Today.”

## Words & Spirit February

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**Living by Heart** - a group dedicated to reflecting on the written word as a means for deepening our own lives. Bring a poem or piece of short prose to share. We meet the first Monday evening of the month, this month on Feb. 7, from 7:00-8:30 in the Large Conference Room.

**Writing as Spiritual Practice** a group focused on using our own writing to deepen our living. Bring paper and pen. We meet every third Monday of the month, Feb. 20 this month, from 7:00-8:30 – this session we will begin meeting in the Blue Door Room.

### *BUC Film Buffs: A Prairie Home Companion*

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BUC Film Buffs: Friday, February 24, at 7 p.m. in the Commons

"From director Robert Altman comes this quirky piece of fiction based on the real-life radio program of the same name, with a wry screenplay penned by the show's host, Garrison Keillor, who also stars. Fueled by a high-powered cast the film takes a behind-the-scenes look at the mayhem surrounding the folksy program's final broadcast." - Netflix

A Prairie Home Companion (USA, 2006, 106 minutes) was rated PG-13 (risqué humor) by the MPAA.

Snacks provided by Margot Leroy. For more information contact Larry at [248-569-0965](tel:248-569-0965) or [LarryWisniew@att.net](mailto:LarryWisniew@att.net).

## “Good Without God?”

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The Sunday Morning Discussion Group is discussing Greg Epstein’s book, *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe* on Sundays in the Large Conference Room at 9:30. These discussions on Good Without God will continue through February 12.

March 4 will begin a new series of discussions on a new book/topic, yet to be selected. Everyone (whether you have been attended the discussions in the past or not) is encouraged to bring a book on February 19 that they think would be a good book/topic to discuss which focuses on ethics, religion or spirituality.

## Sacred & Profane Discussions

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There was a lively discussion on the topic of "Relationships other than with humans" on Jan. 18. The most popular relationship discussed was with Nature, both flora and fauna (particularly birds). Other relationships included old buildings, books, ornamental and organic vegetable gardens. The discussion about relationships with electronic devices revealed that people were conflicted. The topic for our next meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 10:30 AM is "Abortion". All members and friends of the church are welcome.

## Drop-In Book Club - Feb. 23

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Mixing it up a bit, going for a suspenseful mystery action thriller... on Thursday, February 23 (6:30 in the Red Door Classroom across the courtyard). The selection this month is, *The Day of the Jackal* by Frederick Forsyth. If you read it a few years ago, hey, brush up on it and join us for the discussion in February. If you haven't read it yet, but are intrigued ~ see you then!

## Special Facilities Tour

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**Sunday, February 5** following the second service, architect and member, Keith Brown will be leading a tour of BUC. Keith brings his love of BUC and it's architecture together to create a very special look at our building. Gather in the Pavilion following the service for this up close and personal look at our facilities.

# Reflections

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Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



Theologian David Tracy talks of “limit experiences” as times when our sense of self and of the meaning and purpose of our life come into sharp focus. “Limit experiences,” as the term suggests, are experiences that set an impassable boundary for us, a line which we cannot cross no matter how skillful or powerful we may be. Pain and suffering, loss, defeat, shame, loneliness, ignorance, fear: such experiences remind us that we are limited beings, that we cannot do everything, go everywhere, have it all, know it all, live forever.

Our culture encourages us to think quite the opposite. Acceptance of limitation is discouraged and viewed as a sign of weakness. Whatever the limit, the boundary that seems to be set, the line that is drawn, we are told to put all our efforts into pushing it aside. And we celebrate those among us who demonstrate that what had seemed to be a limit need not restrict us that it is always possible to go beyond what is defined as the ultimate or the end.

Yet the limits inevitably return in some fashion. On all sides, through the present economic contractions, through mounting evidence of climate change and the destructive results of believing we could live without limits in terms of our consumption of resources, we are receiving messages about limits. Politicians and religious leaders alike seem to want to encourage us to resume our limit-denying lifestyles, promise to return our country and our community to greatness. Even if such a return were possible, would it be advisable? Does greatness mean only being unlimited in what one does, how one lives?

Pain and suffering, loss, defeat, shame, loneliness ignorance, fear: none of us finally is immune to them; none escapes the limits set on our lives. Once those limits are encountered in a final way, once they are understood to be impassable and ineradicable, a crucial shift in focus can occur. Rather than trying in every way possible to deny the limits, to push ourselves past them, we stop looking at ourselves and look instead beyond the limits, to what is not us, to what lives outside the limits of self and individual experience. Having once looked beyond our limits, without trying to overcome them or deny them, but simply seeing past them, we are forever changed. Shaken loose from self-preoccupation, we learn from our limits that it is not all about us.

Faithfully,

Kathy

## Facebook Orientation - the Commons, Sun. February 19, 12:30

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Lisa Crawford will host a facebook orientation class for anyone interested in learning a bit more about this social media explosion. Here are a few interesting facts you may not know about facebook:

- 845 million monthly active users at the end of December 2011.
- Approximately 80% of their monthly active users are outside the U.S. and Canada.
- 483 million daily active users on average in December 2011.
- more than 425 million monthly active users who used Facebook mobile products in December 2011.
- Facebook is available in more than 70 languages.
- BUC has a facebook page with 405 “likes” (people who follow our posts) – the last week in January 417 people “checked out” our page.

# Lifespan Religious Education

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Pam McAlpin, Director of Performing Arts & Adult Education [pam.mcalpin@bucmi.org](mailto:pam.mcalpin@bucmi.org)  
Kimery Campbell, DRE for Youth [kimery.campbell@bucmi.org](mailto:kimery.campbell@bucmi.org)  
Eleanor McGuire, DRE for Children [eleonor.mcguire@bucmi.org](mailto:eleonor.mcguire@bucmi.org)

## *Adult Religious Education*

The Multi-gen service “Stone of Hope” with special guest Abe Lincoln in January needs kudos expressed to Kathy and worship associate, Gregg Bloomfield. Both jumped on board and added much relevance to this service. Fred Priebe plays Abe Lincoln at Greenfield Village, in Dearborn. Have you gone and sat on the Rosa Parks bus yet? It’s located in the Henry Ford Museum.

January 13th was Friday: Food, Faith, and Fun. We watched the movie “Kung Fu Panda 2” after marching around the Sanctuary during Rev. Hurt’s vespers singing “We Shall Overcome.” Next month: GAME NIGHT February 3rd ~ potluck begins at 6:45 p.m. in the Social Hall. Please bring own dishes and silverware to minimize group clean-up.

Fridays: Food, Faith, Fulfillment (adult education) also met on January 13th to share in the potluck and vespers. We went over the first part of the ROPE (8th grade curriculum) with a good discussion. We will continue on February 3rd with the second half of their questionnaire. You may join in without having been at our previous meeting.

## *Children’s Rotation Curriculum*

February’s Coming of Age rotation focuses on one of life’s larger challenges - transforming us from children into adults. This journey requires moving away from a life of being cradled by our families and onto a path that leads to greater self-reliance. Coming of age requires gaining new knowledge, knowledge both taught and discovered. Often, members of the wider community are responsible for the teaching, challenging and eventual welcoming of young people into the company of adults. This process is a universal human experience, yet marked in different ways all over the world. Finally, while many of us experience formal moments where we are recognized by others as “coming of age,” life also offers other small moments which reveal that we have moved further into a powerful adulthood.

This rotation asks the kids to contemplate for themselves four different aspects of coming of age:

- 1) How do I recognize within myself that I’m growing up? What’s my definition of “coming of age”?
- 2) What are some things that I’ve noticed over time and been proud of? For example, how are my values changing?
- 3) How do others acknowledge that I’m coming of age?
- 4) Why is it so important that people take on responsibility for themselves, their beliefs and their community?

## *Youth Religious Education*

On Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, second term teachers Debbie Fordree, Stuart McAlpin, and Eric Sargent will launch a 4-week Buddhism unit in the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. Upcoming events include Bakeoff, a Valentine service event, and a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, March 3rd.

ROPE (Rite of Passage Experience), under the direction of advisors Emilia Askari, Glenn Hoffrichter, and Bruce Webber, has gotten off to a strong start in examining the concept and function of religion.

Fundraising for the Boston trip, especially the Scrip shopping card program, continues unabated!

February's workshops aim to clarify the Environmental Awareness of BUC's high school youth on several key issues, both local and international. Often, it seems that topics like global warming receive much hype but little action. Tapping into the power of the Internet, BUC's youth will look at the current status of several issues and analyze what the future might look like under different scenarios. These workshops will offer concise, factual updates followed by an exploration of possible options to meet the demands of the future.

*What resources are created by population growth? What are the myths vs. the actual effects of population growth on humanity and our planet over time? Is the situation dire or better than predicted?*

*What is the future of Michigan's water? Current legislation both protects and sanctions the removal of water from the state. Should Michigan's water be available to corporations? Other states? What claim does Canada have to the Great Lakes? Should these issues be decided by local voters or elected officials?*

*Is climate change being addressed? What has been done in the past 10, 20, 30 years to reduce CO2 emissions? What do we still need to do and how will we get there? Who will champion the cause?*

*How do we balance protecting habitats with the right to a livelihood? How do we protect the ocean's creatures & their habitats while also respecting the right of other nations' to continue their traditional fishing practices?*

*Should the federal government regulate **consumption**? Will humans curb their "wants" without outside incentives? Do Americans feel that they deserve anything they can afford to buy, that they have "earned it"?*

All 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth: Bakeoff is coming! All youth families are encouraged to support this very effective fundraiser for the youth groups. Sixth and seventh grade families provide bread and butter; ROPE brings salad and dressing; high school brings soup and the result is a wonderful soup luncheon, accompanied by a silent auction of tasty treats and a live auction of culinary masterpieces created by BUC's own celebrity chefs! Jennifer Bostek is the ROPE Bakeoff coordinator; the GUUSH youth are handling high school assignments; check with Kimery Campbell for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade tasks. Please reserve Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> for this delicious event!

- Feb. 5 All 6-12 Youth: Youth Sunday planning session, 12:30 p.m., Red Door
- Feb. 12 All-church event: 32<sup>nd</sup> Bakeoff & Soup Luncheon; through 2 p.m.
- Feb. 12 **GUUSH meets, 2 p.m.**
- Feb. 19 Deadline for adult registration for Social Justice Con; [www.heartlanduu.org](http://www.heartlanduu.org)
- Feb. 27 Deadline for youth registration for Social Justice Con; [www.heartlanduu.org](http://www.heartlanduu.org)
- Mar. 2-4 Social Justice Con at Ann Arbor UU
- Mar. 3 UFO Progressive Dinner: Chez Burleigh, Gabel, & Askari-Owens

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

## Brain Bee ~ February 11

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Here's a unique opportunity to explore the brain. High school students are invited to participate in MSU's Brain Bee, a live Q & A competition about brains and how they work. Registration is free, and there are prizes and an opportunity to compete at national and international events. The competition and a Neuroscience Fair will be held in East Lansing on **February 11, 2012**. Students can prepare by studying "Brain Facts" pdf online. Information is available at MSU Brain Bee website, [www.brainbeemsu.com](http://www.brainbeemsu.com). Margaret Bell, BUC and GUUSH alum is a graduate student in the program.

## Alliance February 15

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According to the current 2012 best rankings in [US World & News Report](#) a local public High School, the International Academy (IA) at Square Lake east of Woodward, has been ranked number two in the United States. An additional [Wikipedia](#) article from 2009 can be found at that describes the IA's historical rise in the rankings. The [IA's website](#) is also a good source of information.



On February 15 the BUC Alliance will host two speakers, the IA founder Bert Okma and its current principal Lynne Gibson as they present “Educational Reform in Action – Offering an International Option.”

The Alliance invites interested parents and all those concerned with the quality of public education to attend.

Everyone is invited to join us at our Brown Bag lunch in the Pavilion at Noon. Alliance will provide beverages and homemade cookies. The program will begin at about 1:00 in the Commons. If you can't join us for lunch, please join us for the program.

On March 21 we will become better informed about Presidential elections and the rather confusing system of Primaries and delegates – our speaker an expert from the League of Women Voters.

## BUC Volunteer of the Month: Ilene Beninson

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Ilene Beninson has been volunteering at BUC and the wider community for many years. Her passionate commitment to the children at the Whitmer Human Resource Center in Pontiac, her organizing and follow through on the annual “Adopt a WHRC Family for Christmas,” collecting food for back pack Fridays, her contribution of energy and hard work with our twice yearly rummage sales, her love of animals and her efforts on their behalf, washing laundry every year for the warming shelter, working with the South Oakland Shelter, and giving of her time and talents wherever she finds opportunities, are all hallmarks of this BUC member and volunteer. Ilene frequently volunteers to offer hospitality by signing up to be a Greeter on Sunday mornings before services. Beginning in the fall of 2011, Ilene added “Youth Advisor” to her other BUC volunteer activities and beginning in January she became co-leader of BUC's Social Justice efforts along with Mary Jo Ebert. Ilene for all you do for so many, we recognize and thank you.



## Volunteers Needed for Sunday Hospitality

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It takes fourteen people each Sunday to welcome members and visitors, pass out programs, collect the offering, assist in insuring that the service runs smoothly and provide the essential ingredient for after service fellowship. If you are coming to services anyway, why try your hand as a greeter, usher or coffee server? This is an easy way to become involved with the success of our services without the need for a long term or continuing commitment. Stop by the Sunday Host table in the Social Hall to sign up for an available opening, or contact one of the following coordinators: Karen Stankye (Greeters) 248-666-0284 [kesala@msn.com](mailto:kesala@msn.com), Larry Freedman (Ushers) 248.370-8227 248/370-8227 [lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net) or Roger Marshall 248-765-2068 [rbm3368@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbm3368@sbcglobal.net)

# Music @ BUC



It may be cold outside, but the spirit we all felt as we returned to our regular services following the holidays was warm and cozy. We had the chance to enjoy Barbara's playing for several services, and we welcomed back our beloved pianist Angelina from Bulgaria. The choir interspersed with the congregation to sing our opening hymn of the year, and the effect was magical. We were led in song by Jim Scott at the month's end for a hymn sing service. Jim drove all the way from Massachusetts to be with us. Many thanks to Jim for his inspirational spirit and the wonderful service.

Looking ahead, we will be entertained by Wisaal, our guest performers for BUC's new concert series, SoundBitesAlso. Look and listen for our own talented BUCers playing at services more frequently during late winter and early spring.

On the BUC Choir front, there was enthusiastic singing for rehearsals in January to prepare for some new experiences: singing among the congregation will happen more frequently, being a part of Jim Scott's services was joyful and inspirational, and we look ahead to singing a variety of new music. We welcome any new singers into Choir. It is a great way to meet people at church and enjoy some exuberant, purposeful fellowship! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00pm, in our sanctuary.

Kids Choir started up on January 22nd. The Kids Choir, 2nd-6th grade, are learning about rhythms, music-reading, nature and how to make joyful noises. Send your kids to me on Sundays in the music room downstairs for 10:35-11:10am rehearsal. We welcome your thoughts! Email: [abha.dearing@bucmi.org](mailto:abha.dearing@bucmi.org) or [steven.dearing@bucmi.org](mailto:steven.dearing@bucmi.org)

**Friday, February 10, 2012**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012  
7:30 PM  
CONCERT FOLLOWED BY WINE, SMALL PLATES, AND CONVERSATION WITH THE PERFORMERS  
TICKETS \$20  
RESERVE TICKETS BY CALLING 248.647.2380  
OR PURCHASE AT THE DOOR

Wisaal, an Arabic word meaning links, connections, or unities, reflects this talented Michigan-based group's fusion of elements of the Arabic musical heritage with Klezmer, Indian, and American influences.

*"Wisaal cunningly and passionately combine Lebanese, American folk, Jewish and jazz musics.... Convivial and contagious... theirs is a natural, earthy and human music."* - Gareth Dylan Smith, "Dr. Drums", United Kingdom

*"Top-notch, creative and inspiring. The members of the group share their raw emotion with the audience in such a way that we all feel like family...."* - Diane Wilson, Creative Director, Art Alley

**SoundBites**  
Concert and Afterglow

## MAMA's Coffeehouse, Saturday, February 18 ~ Brother Sun

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Pat Victor, Greg Greenway, and Joe Jencks have formed the dynamic new male trio Brother Sun. Their harmonies, as much as their lyrics, tell what they are about: warm as a campfire, stirring as a gospel church, rousing as a call to arms. Calling upon contemporary songwriting, and informed by the deep roots of gospel, blues, and folk, the trio weaves a tapestry of harmony that is brilliantly fresh and yet familiar.



Sharon Tse & John Finan will open the show. Sharon combines the influences of folk; pop and jazz into her own unforgettable sound, to create songs that stay with you. John's music is a mix of contemporary folk and rock with strong melodies, intelligent lyrics, and a sense of humor.

*Please note: The cost for this show will be \$15 general admission and \$13 for seniors and students. Doors open at 7:00 show starts at 8:00*

## From the Membership Committee

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As we start the new calendar year (and Lunar Year on January 23<sup>rd</sup>) I would like to share a friendly reminder with all the members of our congregation that every one of us – not just those on the Membership Committee – has the power to help BUC grow. Each of us can do our part by purposely exercising an “outward orientation” on a daily basis. There is an essay on this topic, which can be found at <http://www.uua.org/growth/ideas/182787.shtml>. Written by The Reverend Kim D. Wilson, former Coordinator for the UUA Clearinghouse, in February of 2009, yet still timely today. ~ Bret Bergeron

“...an outward orientation doesn't mean you're secretly trying to get people to join your congregation. It simply means you're open and enthusiastic about your Unitarian Universalism. Here's a list of some of the ways we can practice an open orientation. How many of these things are you already doing? Which ones might you be willing to try?

1. Bring someone to a Sunday service.
2. Talk with someone you don't know during coffee hour.
3. Wear your nametag at every Sunday service.
4. Tell a return guest that you're glad they came back.
5. Intentionally sit beside a newcomer at a Sunday service.
6. Put a UU decal on the window of your car or home.
7. Wear UU jewelry and clothing.
8. Use a UU coffee mug at work.
9. Practice your response to the question, “What is Unitarian Universalism?”
10. Write an article for a local newspaper about a church project in which you're involved.”

For more ideas, check out the [UUA's website](http://www.uua.org) and read this wonderful essay on outward orientation.

## February's Featured Artist @ BUC: WanChuan Kesler

WanChuan Kesler was born in Taipei, Taiwan. Growing up on this Pacific island, she loved the lavish colors and the abundant textures from the mountains and ocean surroundings. The natural beauty of this sub-tropic island sharpened her senses and broadened her abilities and expression of art. The energetic city life in metropolitan Taipei also provided great inspiration for her artwork as a young adult.



**Art of Fire** by WanChuan Kesler

She now lives in a rural area near Ann Arbor, Michigan. The multi-cultural experience of this progressive University town adds another dimension to her work, complimenting her oriental heritage. WanChuan has developed her interests in capturing people and urban settings with compelling light and shadow patterns, and strategic brush strokes. Her medium is oil on canvas.

WanChuan has exhibited and won awards in many reputable competitions such as Michigan Fine Art Competition, Greater Michigan Art Exhibition, Scarab Club Silver Medal, Michigan Annual, and Our Town Exhibition in Birmingham. She furthered her career as an independent artist debuting in Boston Mills Artfest, Akron, Ohio in July 2009. Since then, she has many solo as well as and group exhibits in local galleries and museums and continues to show at many prominent shows in the region.

### Looking Ahead: March and April...

BUC Women - Reserve March 25

**March 25** "Tipping Towards the Light" All women of BUC are invited to attend this evening of connection, celebration and mystery. If you remember last year's "Starry, starry Night" event, this will be more of the same. Join us for a special evening of ingathering, dinner and a program. We hope you'll be there! Tickets will be available in March.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** The Memorial Glen in the Capek Woods 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. Names of those who have passed may be engraved into the granite cenotaphs in May and recognized at the annual Memorial Service on Sunday, May 27th. The deadline for Memorialization requests is **April 1, 2012**; please submit requests to Fred Straky or Sylvia Whitmer.

The Memorial Glen Committee

### Advertisement: Professional Home Health Aide

Over 20 years of experience ~ References available. Full-time, part-time, or single visit service.

**Ken Kauffman**

**1-248-914-1122**



## Paid Advertisements February

### ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKER SERIES

First Thursday of each month, Now meeting at BUC

Free, All Welcome! Speaker line up:

**Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> “Tar Sands: the Tipping Point?” Fr. Charles Morris**

**March 1:** “The Controversial Coyote” Holly Hadac and Bill Dodge

**April 5:** “Ah, Wilderness! The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act” Anne Woiwode

**May 3:** “World Without Ice” Dr. Henry Pollack

**June 7:** “Live Raptors! What We Can Learn from Birds of Prey” Sarah Gillmore

6:30-7:00: Light Refreshments, Meet & Greet

7:00-7:30: Announcements

7:30-8:30: Guest Speaker

8:30-9:00: Volunteer Sign Up, Merchandise Sales, Meet the Speaker

[www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg) [www.Facebook.com/clubSEMG](http://www.Facebook.com/clubSEMG) Or, contact Julie Ann at [jawang1@comcast.net](mailto:jawang1@comcast.net)



# SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

## FEBRUARY 5, 2012

### SACRED SITES OF THE DALAI LAMAS WITH GLENN MULLIN

#### FREE RECEPTION AT 6:30 TALK BEGINS AT 7:30 PM BEING HELD AT THE BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH

Glenn Mullin, acclaimed author, teacher and Himalayan tour guide, will give a PUBLIC TALK at Birmingham Unitarian Church including book signing

Glenn Mullin studied in Dharamsala continuously for 12 years from 1972 to 1984, and then six months a year for the six years to follow. His main tantra teachers were Kyabje Ling Dorjechang and Kyabje Trijang Dorjechang. After their passing in the early 1980s, his root guru became Kyabje Denma Locho Rinpoche, the lama who raised Gelek Rimpoche. Glenn is the translator of more than a dozen Tibetan Buddhist classics, and the author of numerous books on Tibetan Buddhist art, history and culture. His “Fourteen Dalai Lamas: A Sacred Legacy of Reincarnation” was nominated for the prestigious NAPRA award, and his book “The Female Buddhas” won Foreword Magazine’s “Book of the Year Award.” He is the director and main meditation teacher of the Stone Lotus Tantra Buddhism center in Korea. He spends four months a year in Mongolia, and the remainder travelling and teaching Buddhism. He also leads pilgrimages to Tibet every spring.

**For additional information contact: Hartmut Sagolla**

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