

# Birmingham Unitarian Church

*A Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

*November 2011*

## Worship Services @ BUC

**9:30 and 11:15**

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

**SoundBites**  
Concert, Afterglow & You.



On Friday, November 4 at 7:30, we joyously inaugurate BUC's music series, Sound Bites, which aims to invite others into our

wonderful church community for quality music and conversation afterwards.

Our first performer will be Shahida Nurullah, a Detroit based jazz vocalist with international acclaim. Tickets are \$20 for concert and afterglow with wine and goodies, available at the door, or by emailing [steven.dearing@bucmi.org](mailto:steven.dearing@bucmi.org). Bring a non BUC friend and enjoy what our wonderful community has to offer.

## Nov. 6: "For All the Saints"

What is the goal of spiritual growth? In a tradition that does not envision some sort of ultimate reward like heaven or nirvana or salvation, Kathy and Worship Associate Elaine Morse reflect on the point of spiritual practices, exploring just what exactly we hope to achieve when we meditate, pray, give, do good works.

## Nov. 13: "If It Isn't About Me, What's the Point"

Continuing the theme of looking at motivations and rewards in our UU spirituality, Kathy and Worship

Associate Kristi Fielder consider the tension between wanting something for oneself and the challenge to help others. Too much focus on meeting personal needs results in spiritual narcissism; too much focus on helping others results in spiritual burnout. How do we balance these contrary spiritual movements?

## Nov. 20: Multi-Generational Service

This service led by Kathy, Worship Associate Judy Amir, and Pamela McAlpin looks at how we express gratitude for the blessings of our lives.

## Nov. 27: TBD

## Scrip? What's Scrip?

Scrip is the perfect fundraiser for tough economic times. Now you can support the ROPE class in their efforts to earn money for their annual trip to Boston simply by buying things you would ordinarily buy.

Shoppers order gift cards for the services or goods they need from a list that includes hundreds of businesses-- services, restaurants, travel, shopping, and a great deal more. The cards are delivered to BUC for pick up the following week and you can then use them for personal shopping or give them as gifts. You pay exactly the cost of card and no more. The merchants pay a percentage of the sale price on each card to our youth program. Do your entire holiday gift card shopping in the BUC Social Hall and avoid the crowds! The more you shop with Scrip, the more money we earn toward Boston.

Please stop by the Scrip table in the Social Hall for details or to place an order. Or, you may visit the Scrip website at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com). Thank you for your support!



## Connections - Joys & Sorrows

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Bess Bonnier was a friend of many in our congregation, and has performed for us on several occasions over the years. There will be a Memorial Service for Bess, at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church on Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m. A jazzy wake will follow at 9:00pm at the Blue Pointe Restaurant, 17131 E. Warren at Cadieux. The obituary by Mark Stryker of the Detroit Free Press can be seen at this link:

<http://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODE/DFREEP/Default.aspx?href=DFP%...>

Marcia Femrite's son died on at the age of 46 the first week of October. Marcia wishes to express her sincere thanks for the support of the Pastoral care committee and those who sent their regards.

BUC member, Steve Lorey, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in June. After an initial chemotherapy treatment, he'll be undergoing a stem cell transplant in early December. Your positive thoughts would be appreciated.

Paul and Mary Jo Plante welcomed their fifth grandchild, Joey Reese to the world in September. Congratulations to all!

Congrats to Clavis Janes was offered and accepted a job as a physics professor at Henry Ford Community College.

On October 11, the mother of Kim Geis and Gary Hancock, Astrid, passed away at the age of 75. She died peacefully and on her own terms.

Viola Newman's dad passed away on October 14 at the age of 82.

Andrew and Kris Schreck, who were married at BUC, celebrated their twelfth wedding anniversary on October 16.

BUC member, Jane MacFarlane, received critical acclaim, and much applause from those fortunate enough to see her perform an "unflinching portrayal" of Vivian Bearing in a local production of "Wit" at Stage Crafters in Royal Oak in October.

Maurice Lefford is recuperating at home from pneumonia. Good thoughts most welcome.

The Kort family said "good-bye" to their dog of twelve years, Chip.

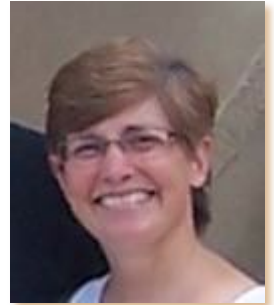
Kate and Jim Mellet wanted to thank their loving, caring friends at BUC for all their on-going support as

Kate has battled the infection she incurred following shoulder surgery. She is a bit better, with a long way to go.

## Volunteer of the Month

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Kathy DuHame ~ When I first received Kathy Hurt's e-mail saying I was selected as BUC's volunteer of the month, my first reaction was that there are so many more deserving people than myself. No matter what volunteer activity I am involved in, there is always others that are doing more and I am always working with volunteers that are invaluable.



When I first started attending BUC, I became involved in Needs Network. Through this committee, I knew I had found a place that reflected my belief that helping others is a way of life, that what we do matters more than what we believe and that our actions speak louder than our words.

I also find volunteering a lot of fun. I get to know other BUCers and be involved in activities that I enjoy doing but do not do professionally. I get to hear fabulous music, learn something new or learn from others more knowledgeable.

I am always so touched by the gratitude that I feel and that I receive. I, hopefully, express the same gratitude to others. Whether the activity is stewardship to our church, to the community or just for fun, I am always amazed at how others are willing to give of their time and talent.

*Coming in December...*

**NO FAULT ORCHESTRA**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Dust off your instruments & sign up in the social hall.

See Pam McAlpin for details and encouragement

**FRIDAY FOOD, FAITH, & FUN**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Potluck dinner 6:45-7:15pm

Vespers 7:30-8:00pm

Fun 8:00-9:00pm carols around the piano

with Barbara Woolf and Pam McAlpin

## Getting to Know UU, Nov. 30

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The second in a four-part series offered to those interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and interested in deepening their connections with BUC. Please join the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt and Worship Associate Elaine Morse as we continue this series. This session will be *Sharing Our Spiritual Journey*. The session leader & CDC will share briefly about their spiritual journey as examples. Participants will be invited to share their spiritual journeys and discuss where/ if they see their journeys changing. How might those changes take place? How might attending BUC influence the journey? RSVPs to Lisa Crawford, Media & Membership Coordinator, would assist in planning but are not essential. Session III will be January 25, 2012.

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## Class, Round II, Nov. 20

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Back by request, round two for those who missed this in October, and for those who wanted to have another session. There is an evolution in social networking. If you're interested in learning to navigate, come join us. We'll project it onto the screen so everyone can see. We'll start after the second service around 12:30 and if there's interest, arrange a second session. Lisa Crawford will be leading this class. For more information, contact her at [lisa.crawford@bucmi.org](mailto:lisa.crawford@bucmi.org)

## First Aid at BUC

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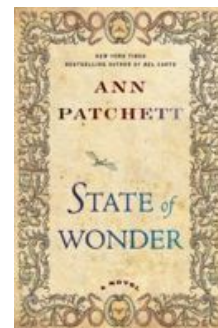
Should you ever need a bandage, a Band-Aid or an ice pack while at BUC, supplies are located in four spots throughout church. The main supply is in the office cupboard to the left of the copy room. There are three bright red cube shape first aid boxes in each kitchen. In the main kitchen, it is on a high shelf to the left of the ovens; in the lower level RE kitchen, it is on the counter; in the Commons kitchen, it is in the labeled cupboard to the left of the sink. Take care, with love from the Pastoral Care folks!



## Drop-in Book Club

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In October five folks showed up to discuss, Erin Morgenstern's book, *The Night Circus*. Delightful! The next Drop-in Book Club, will be Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> We'll meet again at 6:30 in the Red Door Room. Karen Shreck will be facilitating the discussion on Ann Patchett's book, *State of Wonder*. If it sounds interesting and fits your schedule, perhaps we'll see you there.



## "Is There Good Without God?"

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group will begin discussing Greg Epstein's *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe* in late November.

Epstein, the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University and student of Rabbi Sherwin Wine, has written a learned but highly readable book about the historical roots of humanism and how it can give life meaning and moral direction to those who choose not to depend on a divine figure for these. This book inspires – both the reader and lively discussion.

The group will begin this book after the discussions of the UU seven principles are completed. We can't tell you the exact date yet because we don't know when we will be done discussing the UU seven principles – we find discussing them so interesting. Watch for the beginning date in This Week at BUC.

Discussions are always open to everyone and are at 9:30 in the large conference room almost every Sunday morning. Contact: Diane Lake at [diane.lake@comcast.net](mailto:diane.lake@comcast.net) or 248-626-0222.

## Sacred and Profane Discussions

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The group's next meeting is on Wednesday, November 16 at the usual time of 10:30 AM until noon. The topic is "Coping with Death". Most of us have had to deal with the death of a person to whom we were very close: spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, child, friend, and more distant relatives. Come and share your experiences. What has helped; what has not. The facilitator is Maurice Lefford.

# Reflections

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Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



For some years now, my own spiritual practice has involved taking time most mornings for meditation or prayer, journaling, and contemplative reading. I have heard many of you describe similar spiritual practices that support your ongoing growth, practices that range from traditional ones like yoga to activities such as gardening that might not look like a spiritual practice but nonetheless serve that function in your life, the function that any action, pursued thoughtfully and consistently, can serve, namely that of focusing our customarily distracted minds for a time, drawing scattered energies and attention together, centering and calming us.

I want to propose that we at BUC undertake a communal spiritual practice in the coming months as a kind of joint experiment. This practice would be included in all the activities we already pursue at church, and we would commit ourselves to doing it individually, supporting our BUC neighbors in their practice of it, and reminding one another to practice, recognizing that spiritual practice of any sort will be something one postpones doing, forgets to do, resists doing, often over and over, before it becomes integrated into ongoing life. I am proposing it in response to my own observations, and observations I have heard from many of you, about the unsupportive and hurtful behaviors that arise in our community, especially during times of conflict.

The practice I propose is inspired by the covenant of our sister congregation, the UU Church of Bloomington, Indiana, which reads something like this: “We assume the best intentions in all that each of us does at all times; if proven otherwise, then we deal with it.” I am not proposing that we adopt this as our BUC covenant wholesale, since a covenant arises from the people in a congregation determining exactly how they wish to be in relationship with one another, so that we cannot simply slap another congregation’s covenant onto our church and call it a day. Rather, I want us to take this notion expressed in the Bloomington church covenant and use it as our congregational spiritual practice, a mindful effort to focus our thoughts and actions in a new way.

“We assume the best intentions in all that each of us does at all times”: to practice this would require that we not yield to the quick mistrust, the ready judgment, the kneejerk negativity that can so easily overcome us when we see another doing or saying something that does not meet our approval, that we find offensive, that we want to criticize as being “un-Unitarian” or “unilateral” or “not following the right procedures, the usual ways we do things here” or “unfair” or “undemocratic” or “conservative” or any of the myriad terms we use to attribute bad intentions to what we see another doing or hear another saying. Instead, following this practice, when I see a fellow BUCer doing or saying something that I do not like, for whatever reason, I would pause, withhold judgment, and instead tell myself something like “she’s actually trying to help” or “he wants this to work out” or “not the way I would have said it, done it, but it could work.” To follow this practice will require that I recognize all of us at BUC want the same things, share a vision of a rich and fulfilling community here, and that such a vision is fundamentally what inspires each action taken.

The second part of the practice is equally challenging: whenever it begins to be clear that good intentions are not at work, that someone carelessly or deliberately is harming another or our church, then we do not ignore it or wait for someone else—the senior minister, the chair of the committee, the facilitator of the group, a member of the Board, a member of the staff—to address the problem but we summon up our courage and wade in, respectfully but deliberately confronting the misbehavior, calling the person to account for what s/he has done. Knowing when to confront and when to wait for further clarity will rarely be easy, but requires discernment and careful attention, seeing what is really going on rather than what I

might first assume is going on, asking questions, consulting others. And even then, it may be a judgment call.

“We assume the best intentions in all that each of us does at all times; if proven otherwise, then we deal with it.” A daunting spiritual practice, to be sure, and one we are likely to struggle with, fail at, find discouraging. But this is a practice that has the potential to transform the culture of our congregation so that BUC becomes a safe and supportive community where we not only say we are all in this together, but actually live, moment by moment, as though we are all in this together.

In faith, hope, and love,

Kathy

## 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 [eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org](mailto:eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org)

### *Adult Religious Education*

BUC's adult RE program will start in full swing in January 2012. With the aim of offering a wide selection of opportunities, we hope to make this revitalized program much more than basic religious education. Many of you have already requested classes or offered to teach one. Please keep your ideas coming and watch for the blinking RE board in the social hall after services. Contact Lifespan team member Pamela McAlpin with ideas and questions.

### *Looking Ahead - No Fault Orchestra Sign-Ups*

Dust off your instruments and sign up in the Social Hall. Performances will be during both services Sunday, December 18th. See Pam McAlpin for details and encouragement.

### *Children's Rotation Curriculum*

Here is a brief outline of the **Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade** schedule through the holiday season:

- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Ideas About God workshops
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>:** Ideas About God workshops
- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>:** Multi-Generational service (no RE classes/workshops)
- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Ideas About God workshops
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>:** Candy Cane Sunday
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>:** Susa service (Multi-age RE class for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>:** No Fault Orchestra & Multi-Generational service (no Preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grade RE classes)

### *Youth Religious Education*

As we move into November, the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade class will move from Hinduism to Judaism. They will begin with a **field trip to Temple Shir Shalom (7:45 pm November 4<sup>th</sup>)**. In class, they will receive background and welcome a speaker, before joining in the November 20<sup>th</sup> multigenerational Thanksgiving service. The UFO group has two events planned: archery on November 13 from 1-3 pm. [andyross247@hotmail.com](mailto:andyross247@hotmail.com) and Glo-Bowling at Thunderbird Lanes on Dec. 11 [5lakocy@gmail.com](mailto:5lakocy@gmail.com). Both of these events currently have openings, so act now to join the fun.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the OWL (Our Whole Lives) class continues to meet from 9:30-12:30am each Sunday. Fundraising for the Boston trip is ramping up with the introduction of Scrip (see page 1). We will also

begin the annual poinsettia sale this month. Please look for tables in the Social Hall for both of these projects.

In November, the High School class will continue with Individual in a Crowd. GUUSH youth will prepare dinner for our SOS guests on Saturday, November 12 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. We also hope to introduce the new youth small group ministry, once details are worked out. GUUSH meets on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. (***Please note: There was an error in the original RE calendar, identifying Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> as the meeting date. Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> is correct.***)

Upcoming dates:

- ^ Nov. 4 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Temple Shir Shalom, 7:45 p.m.
- ^ Nov. 6 UFO SOS baking service project, 1-4 p.m. BUC Social Hall
- ^ Nov. 6 GUUSH meeting 6-8 p.m., Red Door
- ^ Nov. 12 GUUSH SOS dinner 5 to 8:30 p.m., BUC Social Hall
- ^ Nov. 13 UFO archery outing, 1 p.m., Detroit Archers. Spots available!
- ^ Nov. 20 GUUSH meeting, 6 to 8 p.m., Red Door
- ^ Dec. 11 Glo-Bowling at Thunderbird Lanes, 1-3 p.m. Spots available!

### *Multi Generational Services*

The monthly Multigenerational worship services, are designed to both explore a variety of worship styles as well as to foster community. They may include skits, readings, audience participation etc. September 25<sup>th</sup> marked our 1st multi-gen service in a new format. Kudos to Ron Fredrick and Jane McFarlane (who recently delivered an amazing performance in 'Wit' at Stage Crafters in Royal Oak) who played the role of our bench performers. Thanks to Penny Hacket-Evans our caterpillar/butterfly, plus Kelly Taylor and her daughters Emma and Madeline for being our lady bugs. Wonderful comments have been shared about all of your contributions to the service on "Change". The El Dios De Los Muertos service on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> was a warm, festive celebration of our departed loved ones. Our Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> multi-gen service will focus on "being thankful for our blessings".

### *Guest At Your Table: a program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*

Each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table — a UU tradition. By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared principles into action in the United States and around the world. In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family meal table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their "guests" to the movement for universal human rights — and share generously. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from the UUA, UUSC members are vitally important. If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

### *Buy your regular holiday gift cards through Scrip and help ROPE get to Boston!*

Many BUC young adults have named the 8th grade year as pivotal to their spiritual development and the Boston trip as the highlight of that year. It will cost over \$12,000 to keep this tradition alive for this year's 8th graders. We have the potential to earn all we need through our fundraisers, if BUC members can offer support, not by buying MORE stuff but by changing their shopping habits a little. Here's how: Purchase gift cards (ex: Macy's, Best BUY, Target, Amazon.com, Speedway gas, etc) from our list which includes hundreds of choices of restaurants, services, travel, shopping, and a great deal more. You pay exactly the cost of card and no more. A week later the cards are delivered to BUC for you to pick up at our table in the Social Hall during Sunday morning coffee hour. Finally, the merchants pay a percentage of the sale price on each card to our youth program. It's effortless, convenient & deeply appreciated.

Contact [kimery.campbell@bucmi.org](mailto:kimery.campbell@bucmi.org) with questions. The email version of this newsletter also contains additional information for purchasing Scrip cards that benefit BUC online. (Link on our website)

## 2011 Poinsettia Sale

The BUC R.O.P.E. Students are again selling wonderful poinsettias! The annual Poinsettia Sale is one of several fund raisers necessary to ensure all of the students can experience the trip to Boston.

The plants are big and beautiful, florist quality poinsettias, available in Red, Pink, White, Burgundy, Jingle Bell, Marble, or Peppermint (new name for Monet). Jingle Bells have a red "petal" dashed with creamy white and pink. Marble have a pink "petal" with creamy white edges. Peppermint is a luscious blend of rose and pink speckles. All of these plants are truly gorgeous! Four sizes are available starting for only \$8/plant!

Plants are delivered to the church in early December. Large orders can be delivered upon request. You can place your order at church in November, both services, by visiting the R.O.P.E. table where Scrip is also for sale. Orders can also be emailed to [Scottandkym@wowway.com](mailto:Scottandkym@wowway.com). Call Kym Worth, 248-914-3685, for more information.

## Music @ BUC

October was a musical month at BUC. The choirs have really worked hard to sing Hebrew, English and Indian songs to commemorate Yom Kippur and Diwali, in addition to regular services. We had a guest artist for Diwali (Abha's father Ramesh Mangrulkar) who played and sang Hindu devotional songs. Angelina brought a friend, Paul Burns, who played duets with her on October 23. Thanks to all for making our services even more meaningful.



The Chalice Choir is working towards the holiday season when they will sing Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies", a collection of traditional Spanish carols accompanied by marimba, harp and guitar on December 11th for both services. Thinking about singing with us? Now is a perfect time. The choir will also enjoy a choral workshop led by world renowned choral pedagogue Dr.

Mike Mitchell on **November 12th**. Special thanks to Amy Smalley and the Cha-Ching Singers for preparing "With a Half a Million Dollars" for Stewardship Sunday. What a great time to sing at BUC!

The Kids Choir is busily preparing two songs for the November 6th services. They have been learning about vocal technique, music reading, rhythm and singing. They are an enthusiastic group of strong singers who know how to focus and how to make a joyful noise. Remember, Kids Choir begins at 10:35 on Sundays in the Music Room. I look forward to our congregation's continued open minds and open hearts as we try new musical ideas.

## Film Buffs Presents: *Nora's Will*

When: Friday, November, 25 at 7 p.m. in the Commons

"It may not sound like a perfect premise for a comedy, but don't let that fool you: the complications created by Nora's successful suicide attempt – just before her family assembles for a magnificent Passover feast – sets in motion a series of unexpectedly funny, bittersweet revelations that mine a rich vein of humor from the most surprising situations. The feature from Mexican writer and director Mariana Chenillo is a witty, cannily crafted tug-of-war between Jewish customs, human nature, and undying love. In Spanish with English subtitles." - *DFT Summer 2010 Film Guide* .



## South Oakland Shelter Comes to BUC

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Our guests will be here November 6-13. The co-coordinators sent out a request for the last remaining needs on October 30, and many of you responded quickly. If you would still like to help out or are available as an alternate driver for last minute cancellations, please let Paul Plante know. Any other questions about volunteer responsibilities to co-coordinators: email Paul Plante at [pplante@twmi.rrcom](mailto:pplante@twmi.rrcom), ph: 734-464-1577 or Grace Rising at [gbrising@comcast.net](mailto:gbrising@comcast.net), ph: 248-545-2178. There is also a complete list of volunteer job responsibilities on BUC's website [www.bucmi.org](http://www.bucmi.org)

## Generous Donations & Adult/GUUSH Walk for Focus Hope

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Birmingham Unitarian Church has had a long time dedication to Focus: HOPE, an organization founded to benefit the Detroit Community after the 1967 riots. This summer, we decided to rededicate ourselves to this alliance, and BUCers generously stepped up to the plate with Sunday Service collections totaling \$1079.30. We dedicated this amount in memory of longtime friend and Focus: HOPE founder Eleanor Josaitis in whose name we signed on as sponsors of the annual Focus: HOPE walk held on Sunday, October 9. A large group of our wonderful youth carried our BUC banner through downtown Detroit, accompanied by a smaller group of intrepid youth advisors and other members of the congregation. In addition, many in our congregation donated pledges to the Walk, amounting to an additional \$335. Many many thanks to everyone from your (exhausted) Team Captain. What a day! If you would like to know about further Focus: HOPE volunteer opportunities please contact me at [avpratt@aol.com](mailto:avpratt@aol.com).

In September we collected \$1379.57 for Communities United for Children, so that food could be packed into Whitmer Resource Center Student knapsacks to carry them over otherwise hungry weekends. Presently we are collecting for the Valley Suarita Samaritans, a group of Unitarians and others who come to the aid of immigrants crossing the Arizona desert.

The Welcome Inn, a homeless shelter in Royal Oak to which we will be donating a Plate Collection later in the year, is selling tickets for a SPREAD THE LAUGHS benefit on Thursday, November 10 at Royal Oak's Comedy Castle. Please contact [mfjohnston42@yahoo.com](mailto:mfjohnston42@yahoo.com) for ticket information.

We are currently accepting grant applications. If you would like to sponsor a local charity please go to our web [link](#) and either send it to [avpratt@aol.com](mailto:avpratt@aol.com) or put it in the Plate Collection Committee mailbox in the copy room at BUC. The deadline is December 1 for our December Quarterly Meeting.

Annis Pratt, Chair, Plate Collection Committee



### Recycle Holiday Lights

Bring your busted holiday light strands to BUC and Green Sanctuary will send them to be recycled! Look for our collection bin in the Social Hall during November, December and January. [holidayleds.com](http://holidayleds.com), of Jackson MI, recycles light strands and will provide a 25% off coupon for their products to each participant. So don't toss those frustrating, tangled, non-working light strings - bring them to BUC and be green! (suggested \$2 donation towards shipping costs)

# The Facility @ BUC: a Building Update

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In an effort to be proactive and look to the future, the Facilities committee has spearheaded a effort to develop a master landscape plan for the BUC grounds. This will include all exterior areas of the BUC campus: entries off Woodward Ave and Lone Pine Roads; the parking lot approach and main entry into the church; the playground, the retention pond on Woodward Ave.; Capek Woods; the Marshall Courtyard; and the Memorial Glen.

In May 2011, the Facilities committee prepared and sent out a RFP to four highly regarded Michigan landscape architecture firms. In June 2011, all four companies presented proposals to develop a master landscape plan for the grounds at BUC. The master plan will cover all areas of the BUC campus to keep the original intent and integrity of each area while blending them together in a cohesive plan. In September the BUC board approved the project and a contract was executed with The Johnson/Hill Land Ethics Studio of Ann Arbor. Their bid to develop the master landscape plan for BUC is \$9,850. Funds to cover the cost of the master plan have been generously donated by the following BUC members:

The BUC Alliance, Judy Amir, Colleen Barnard, Betty Blair, Anne Calomeni, Jean and Tom Cranston, Nancy and Bill Duffy, Ron Fredrick, Nancy Jones, Martha Pleiss, Pat and Dick Schwing, Fred Straky, Kathleen Thomson, Ann Throop, Melanie and Rolland Vriesenga, Marilyn Webster and an anonymous donor.

At the Facilities committee meeting held on October 10, 2011, the committee and Johnson/ Hill Land Ethics discussed the action plan for development of the master plan. Development of the master plan includes organizing a core group of twelve BUC members to represent and act as liaisons for the campus areas listed above (Capek Woods, Marshall Courtyard, the playground / youth, and Memorial Glen) as well as the BUC Board, Congregational Development, Green Committee, Endowment, BUC Staff, and Facilities committee. Additionally, two long-term members not currently serving on a committee will be asked to serve on the core group. It will be the responsibility of this core group to provide strong direction to the landscape architects for the committee or group they represent so all BUC members are represented and have input in the final campus master plan. The final BUC master plan will be presented to the BUC congregation for comment and hopefully moral and financial support. We are expecting to present the final plan to the congregation in March 2012.

We are excited to be involved in this project and appreciate the support, financial and moral, we have received thus far. The BUC Facilities Committee

## MAMA's Coffeehouse, November 19

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Peter Madcat Ruth and Shari Kane joined forces in 1990. Having been good friends since 1978, they knew they shared a love for blues that crossed the lines between electric and acoustic, Delta and Chicago, jump blues, folk blues, and jazz. In 1994 and 1995, they were featured on the National Public Radio program Blues Stage which was broadcast on over 200 radio stations nationwide. Their first CD, *Key to the Highway*, was named one of the ten best blues CDs of the year by WDCU-FM in Washington, DC, and the Baltimore Blues Society.

Show begins at 8:00 doors open at 7:00. Opening act Ted Strunck. Tickets available at the door starting at 7:00pm. General admission is \$12 unless otherwise indicated. Seniors (62 and over), and those under 18, are \$10. Children 12 and under are free. Group rates not available.

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## Alliance November & December “Coming Attractions”

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Alliance invites everyone to our monthly events – and November and December gatherings are sure to please all comers!

On Wednesday, November 16 we will hear about Romania from Susie Safford, who was there in the U.S. Peace Corps until recently. By choice, she extended her two-year service by more than a half a year. She will share a slideshow and tell us about her daily life and work with youth ages 12 to 19 in the public schools in a major city. On her travels she visited three UU congregations as well.

This will be a Brown Bag lunch at Noon in the Pavilion, with Alliance providing beverages and cookies. The program will begin at about 1:00 p.m. in the Commons.

Mark your calendar now for our traditional festive Holiday Luncheon! This is a BUC “One-of-a-kind” occasion to which you are invited. It will be Wednesday, December 7 at noon at the Radisson Kingsley Inn. We have held the cost to \$25 for you and any guests. Reservation forms, with menu selections, will be mailed in mid-November – but save the date now!

To start the New Year, we will meet Wednesday, January 18 at noon for our usual Brown Bag lunch. Around 1:00 we will move to the Commons for our program from the Detroit Institute of Arts. A DIA docent will present an illustrated talk about the “Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus” exhibition which will be continuing until February 12. We hope to see you at all these Alliance events!

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## Michigan UU Social Justice Network Regional Workshop

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### *Standing Up for Families and Kids*

*How Can MetroDetroit Respond to Families Cut from Food Stamp and Public Assistance Programs?*

Sunday November 20, 12:30 – 4:00 pm (light lunch at 1:00, program begins at 1:15)  
First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit 48201  
Keynote speaker: Gilda Jacobs, *President & CEO, Michigan League for Human Services, and former state legislator*

This year MUUSJN has organized its 26 member congregations by region so that we can work together to have a greater impact on the issues identified as critical within each region. In light of recent cuts to social programs our SE region has chosen poverty as the issue for its first workshop.

Please join us as we receive legislative updates, learn about current outreach efforts of faith groups and service organizations in metroDetroit, exchange notes on our outreach projects, and network.

There is no charge for the workshop ... a suggested donation of \$10 will help us to cover the costs of the program and lunch.

**Please RSVP by November 10** (so we can better plan the lunch) **Registration:** call Randy Block 248.549.5170, or online: <http://www.uujustice.org/conferenceregistration.html> **Questions:** call Pat Hammer 248.644.6568, [patriciahammer@gmail.com](mailto:patriciahammer@gmail.com)

*Sponsored by: MUUSJN, First UU Church of Detroit, and EMEAC (East Michigan Environmental Action Council)*

# Personnel Committee Update

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By Julia Gragg

The BUC personnel committee is currently a Committee of The Board. In the past year we have reviewed and updated all job descriptions. We have been supportive in the hiring of the co-music directors and the new church administrator position, and supportive in the creation of the Media and Member Coordinator position and of the Lifespan Education Team. Our goal is to align employee responsibilities to optimize the impact on the organization, and to help create a dynamic work environment that encourages creativity, responsibility and growth of our employees. We have dissected and updated the employee manual and are in the process of publishing the new document. This document will guide us in fair, consistent, reliable process for employee relations as well as volunteer relations.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the volunteer force at BUC! We are hopeful that there are more individuals interested in participating on the Personnel Committee. Our charter requires that we have a rotating membership—promoting stewardship and avoiding ownership. If you have experience/knowledge in the fields of (small) business management, HR, employee relations, or employment law, or if you have served in a management/supervisory role, been involved in employee governance or have other experience that you feel the Personnel Committee could benefit from please contact the chair of the committee, Drieka Degraff at [dreika@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dreika@sbcglobal.net)

## Rummage Wrap Up!

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Rummage is all about the numbers, isn't it? We are **1** church community that, each year, manages **2** Rummage sales. With a mere **3** meetings to give us direction and **4** (or fewer) Sundays to recruit volunteers, we launch ourselves into **5** days of frenzied unpacking, sorting, and setting up. At **6** p.m. on Thursday, the sale staff assembles and the sale begins shortly thereafter. By Saturday afternoon, it's all over—in **7** days we have transformed our church into resale shopping heaven and back into a church. We can say that we “**8**” **9** Rummage-prepared meals and countless snacks and that we have proved, over and over again, what willing workers can accomplish with **10**

Okay, maybe that's stretching the number theme a bit. But, once again we can claim success. Our profits this fall were \$17,251 and perhaps just as importantly, we provided quality home goods and clothing to **hundreds** of area families, plus various local charities, including Most Holy Trinity's outreach program, the Furniture Bank, Afghan school children, and the Salvation Army. If you were one of the **dozens** of volunteers who pitched in to make this year's sale a reality, thank you. Please accept the heartfelt thanks of the Rummage Committee and give yourself a well-earned pat on the back. No, make it two.

## Carolyn McDade and Friends - Widening Embrace

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Beloved UU songwriter and singer, Carolyn McDade, is coming to the Detroit area to launch the release of a new CD, *Widening Embrace*. The free concert with Carolyn and local singers will be on **November 18 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church** at 7:30. The concert is co-sponsored by the Green Sanctuary committee of BUC and by the Gaia Women of the Great Lakes Basin who sing on the CD. We hope you will take the opportunity to meet her and hear this beautiful music calling us all to widen our embrace to include species, habitats, galaxies and new ideas. Proceeds from the sale of the CD at this concert will go to individuals, projects or organizations whose work is consistent with the Earth Charter ([www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)). For more information or to purchase the CD, please contact; Penny Hackett-Evans, 354 Hillview St. Rochester Hills, MI 48306. Phone (248) 652-7960. Email [Evansph2@wowway.com](mailto:Evansph2@wowway.com)



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