

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

October 2011

Worship Services @ BUC

9:30 and 11:15

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

Oct. 2: "At-One-Ment"

In recognition of the Jewish time of Yom Kippur, when the community is invited to recall mistakes and times of falling short, Kathy and Worship Associate Gregg Bloomfield ponder the difficulty of acknowledging our imperfections and how we extend forgiveness, to others and to ourselves.



Oct. 9: "Stewardship Sunday: Giving in Gratitude, Growing in Service"

This is a special celebratory Sunday in the Social Hall, with brunch provided by the Stewardship Committee, as we recognize the value of our beloved community and consider how we support it financially. Kathy and Worship Associate Ed Sharples conduct a service of testimonials, reflection, reading, and special music.

Oct. 16: "Sweet Dreams and Flying Machines"

In a culture that prizes success and power, there is no room for losing, for failure. From a spiritual perspective, however, failure has the possibility of unfolding a special kind of meaning. Kathy and Worship Associate Frank Arvan consider how we can see failure as more than just a negative experience to be put behind us as quickly as possible.

Oct. 23: "Choose to Bless the World"

We welcome Guest speaker Rev. Karen McFarland who will be joining Worship Associate Diane Lake. In a world filled with violence and hate how do we choose to live in order to help create the world we want to see and be a part of? How do we help be part

of the solution instead of contributing to the problem? What can make us a blessing individually, as a church and a larger Unitarian Universalist denomination? Can we bless each other and ourselves?

Oct. 30: "El Dia de Los Muertos"

Kathy and Worship Associate Lisa Demian lead our annual intergenerational Day of the Dead service honoring those who shaped our lives while they were living. Please bring an object associated with the person you wish to remember (all objects will be returned following the service).

Harvest Potluck Sat. ~ Oct. 8th

The 4th annual Harvest Potluck, sponsored by Green Sanctuary will be held at 6pm on **Sat, Oct 8th** in the Social Hall. You don't want to miss a chance to re-connect with friends in the BUC community after the summer AND enjoy a fantastic meal. The theme is Sustainable Food. Please contribute something that you feel fits that category with a card explaining why in addition to the ingredients of your dish for 8. Beverages will be provided. So, plan on enjoying great family friendly fellowship while celebrating the bountiful harvest that Michigan has to offer at this time of year. RSVP to the office much appreciated.



buc@bucmi.org Harvest Potluck, October 2009



Let YOUR Stewardship pledge add color to BUC!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2012

Giving in Gratitude, Growing in Service

Please don't miss the Stewardship Campaign Brunch on October 9 during both Services. If you have not heard personally from a Table Captain, your Stewardship Committee still wants you to attend! NO RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

Why is the Stewardship Campaign and Pledge Process so important? Stewardship Campaign pledge and non-pledge income funds three-quarters of BUC's operating budget. Without your pledge, BUC cannot set a budget.

We have set a goal of \$500,000 in total amount pledged this year. This ambitious, but realistic goal will allow BUC to:

Expand Lifespan Education, extending quality educational and cultural offerings to BUC members of all ages.

Increase staff support for Rev. Dr. Hurt's executive functions and allow her to increase the time she dedicates to ministerial and pastoral work.

Increase the amount of plate collection dedicated to community needs and less to church operational expenses.

Address pressing interior and exterior needs of the facility to make our church a clean, safe and welcoming space to visitors and members.

Improve the working environment for our dedicated staff and make equitable contributions to their retirement accounts.

Provide staff support for focused expansion of projects to exert moral force and promote social justice.

Extend the reach of BUC's message and attract new members through media.

If you want BUC to be more effective, more focused, fairer to its employees, and a brighter beacon for liberal religion in Southeastern Michigan, PLEASE PLEDGE GENEROUSLY.

Connections - Joys & Sorrows

Staying connected just got easier. BUC's pictorial directories arrived mid July and are available for pick-up in the church office.

On September 5, Julia and Charlie Gragg celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Louise Angermeier is undergoing a new round of cancer treatments. Please continue to keep Louise in your thoughts and prayers.

Delores Farnworth, long-time Rummage patio supervisor, who joined BUC in October 2002, died on September 11 at the age of 89. Delores' children had a Memorial Service for her at BUC on September 13.

On September 18, Don Loomis and Jennie Spenner celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Emma Evens, daughter of Mark and Jennifer, granddaughter of Roger Marshall, entered the world with a hole in her heart. Just shy of her third birthday, tests reveal it has healed! Celebrating abounds.

Kate Mellet had recent shoulder surgery and is suffering some complications with infection. Our thoughts of healing and support to Kate and Jim as they deal with this layer of difficulty.

Nancy and Dick Halsted share their joy at the arrival of their fourth great-granddaughter, Addyson Ann born on September 24.

Helen Zucker had surgery on September 23 and is undergoing an antibiotic treatment and physical therapy. Your prayers and thoughts of support and healing are much appreciated.



Walter and Lillian Dean are the proud first-time grandparents of Esther Sol Dean-Moger, who was born on September 26, weighing in at 7lbs. 14 oz. Happy birth-day for all of them.

Sid and Rosie Bostek's suffered the loss of both their grandmother and their aunt in mid-September. Our love and support to them and mom, Jennifer.

New Adult RE Opportunity:

Rational Religion



Harry T. Cook, well-known lecturer, religious scholar, activist and long-term *reporter* on religion for the Detroit Free Press, will be speaking on "The Philosophical Underpinnings of Rational Religion" at BUC at 7:30 PM on Thursday, October 13th, in the

Commons. A lively Q and A period will follow. Rev. Kathy is excited about this event and hopes that it will be the beginning of regular visits by Dr. Cook.

Please mark your calendars and contact Diane Lake at diane.lake@comcast.net or [248-626-0222](tel:248-626-0222) with any questions.

Sacred and Profane Discussions

The Sacred & Profane discussion group will next meet at **9:30 AM on Wed.**, October 19 in the large conference room. The topic is "Coping with Death and Dying"; the facilitator will be Maurice Lefford. Many members of the congregation have had to grapple with these issues, and we anticipate a very interesting session. Note that this session will run from 9:30 AM through 11:00 AM to allow discussants who wish to join the Alliance group's visit to the Holocaust Museum.

Sharing Dinner Signup

If you would like to get more connected to BUC and get to know other BUCers better, Sharing Dinners are a great way to meet the more than 100 folks at BUC who take part in Sharing Dinners—small monthly potluck gatherings held in various homes.

Dinners are held the 2nd Saturday of the month (October through May, omitting December). Although you are encouraged to attend them all, you can take part even if you can only attend a few.

You will be asked to host once during the year. The rest of the participants are assigned to one of the hosts, and each month the names are shuffled so everyone gets to meet with as many people as possible. Look for sign up sheets in coffee hours in September, in the office, or contact Carol Lee carolallmanlee@yahoo.com 248-652-9427. The more who sign up, the better it will be.

Drop-in Book Club

No long-term commitment, just a chance to be part of a book discussion group when your busy schedule permits. If we have 15, we'll break into two groups, if we have four then everyone gets to talk more! Each month we'll select the book for the following month and publicize it in the monthly newsletter and on the online calendar. We'll rotate facilitating. Lisa Crawford, Media & Membership Coordinator will be facilitating the first session on **Thursday, October 27 from 6:30-8:00, Red Door Room – across the courtyard** October's book selection: *The Night Circus*, by Erin Morganstern



facebook

Class, October 23

Are you curious about facebook? Would you like to learn how to set-up an account and navigate this evolution in social networking? If you've got a laptop, bring it with you so you can follow along. We'll project it onto the screen so everyone can see how to set up an account, set privacy controls to suit your needs, and start connecting with the millions of people already using facebook. We'll start after the second service around 12:45 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

Getting to Know UU, Oct. 26

The first in a four-part session for those interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and those interested in deepening their connections with BUC. Please join the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt and Worship Associate Elaine Morse as we begin this series. This session will cover: a brief history & definition of UU values & theology, a brief history & definitions of religious beliefs, humanism, etc. and a brief history of BUC. RSVPs to Lisa Crawford, Media & Membership Coordinator, would assist in planning but are not essential. Session II is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Commons.

Reflections

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



Around this time of the church year, when all the new programs are just getting under way, Stewardship Sunday is just around the corner, and planning for new leadership and a new budget are on the horizon, I find myself thinking of my life in terms of the old circus act in which an individual is challenged to keep a bunch of plates spinning on the ends of poles. S/he races from pole to pole, giving the pole a quick spin to prevent the plate from falling off the end. Always it seems that disaster is imminent, that a plate is on the verge of crashing to the floor, yet against all odds s/he reaches the wobbling plate just in the nick of time to keep it spinning.

What image or metaphor best describes your life as we had into fall: the familiar “rat race”? Some circus act, similar to the image I use? An arduous climb up a sheer cliff? All such images suggest a driven quality of life. Perhaps your life seems not so much driven as drifting, so that images such as a twig being carried on a stream, or a leaf blown about by ever-changing air currents, would be more apt.

Whether a life is experienced as driven or as drifting, both kinds of images point to a fundamental movement in the course of a life from one place, one way of being, to another place or way of being. And if a life is in motion, then the next question invariably focuses on the source and meaning of that motion: what started the motion that is directing the life? What sustains that motion? What determines when and whether the motion goes one way rather than another, or maybe even stops altogether?

As I settle in more fully to living in Detroit, the Motor City, fountainhead of a lifestyle of driving and being driven, I wonder whether the present struggles of our community are inviting a new understanding of what it means to drive and be driven, or whether a different sort of motion in our lives is now called for. How would our lives change if we drove less, both literally and spiritually? Or kept driving, but did it differently, for changed reasons?

I hope this autumn season brings you times when the driving eases up, when your pace can slow a bit. It seems much too glorious a time to just keep racing by.

In faith, hope, and love,

Kathy

This is the Pastoral Care Associates annual autumn invitation to you to complete the Emergency Information Form attached to the email mailing of this newsletter. Should you ever have an emergency, having returned this form to BUC would allow the Minister or the Pastoral Care Associates to contact a family member or your Patient Advocate Designee to carry out plans you have made for your care.

If you would like this information to be on file at BUC, please fill out the form and mail or bring the original copy to the office. Know that this data will be kept confidentially in a locked file in the church office. Only the Minister and Pastoral Care Associates will have access to it. Additional blank forms are always be available in the church office and on Sundays at the Pastoral Care Table and all new members are given the opportunity to complete an Emergency Information Form. If your information ever changes, please inform the office of your corrections. Do keep a copy of your form with your own records. Remember to inform those you named that they have been so designated by you.

In service,

Rev. Kathy Hurt, Senior Minister

Pastoral Care Associates, Lynn Bell, Nancy and Don Johnson, Marie Miller, Elaine Morse, Dorothy Prier, Grace Rising, Alison Rule, Ed Sharples, Andie Stewar

Religious Education

Kimery Campbell, DRE for Youth kimery.campbell@buemi.org
Eleanor McGuire, DRE for Children eleanor.mcguire@buemi.org

Photographing & Videotaping of BUC's Children and Youth –

Please be aware that Sanctuary services and other events are sometimes photographed or videotaped for use on the BUC website or in BUC publicity materials. If you do not wish to have your child(ren) or youth's image used in this manner, please request an Opt-Out form from a Director of Religious Education.

Children's Rotation Curriculum

November's ***Ideas About God*** rotation is part of a larger objective of teaching our children about the many different, everchanging opinions about God found within our world. This rotation explores the question "What is God?" It asks the children to contemplate for themselves four different responses:

- 1) Atheism – there is no God but we are all connected. We are capable of empathy, reasoning and generosity and so we move forward through life in communion with each other (ex: Humanism.) This idea will be taught through an art workshop.
- 2) Self-directed journey – there is no God but through proper beliefs and practices, we can help ourselves to achieve peacefulness, without intervening help (ex: Buddhism.) Storytelling will be used to convey the ideas of karma and enlightenment.
- 3) Multiple gods – we are connected to many spiritual forces or gods who created and maintain the universe (ex: Native American beliefs.) The kids will learn about a Native American ritual that honors these belief.
- 4) Monotheism – belief in one god who created the world and continues to influence many things. An individual seeks to live correctly according to the teachings of this God (ex: Judaism, Christianity & Islam.) These ideas will be explored through contrasting parts of Muslim prayers, the Lord's Prayer and our own children's UU Chalice Lighting saying.

Related questions that may be addressed within this rotation are: "Is something guiding the universe and us?" "Or, are we alone?" "Can we (and how do we) seek connection with a power greater than ourselves?"

Finally, this rotation reinforces our Unitarian Universalist Third Principle, which can be summarized as "our churches are places where all people are accepted and encouraged to grow in spirit and mind."

Want learn more about our **K-12th** grade RE program? An informal information session will be offered from 12:30 -1:30pm on Sunday, Oct 9th in the RE office, in order to answer questions and offer background on BUC's program.

The Youth Chorus has begun its traditional "between services" rehearsals (10:35 to 11:10am) downstairs in the music room. Anyone in 2nd-7th grade who loves to sing is invited to join! For further info, please check the music page in this newsletter or contact Choir Director Abha Dearing at abha@dearingconcertduo.com (or just drop by the music room!)

Youth RE

In October, the **6th and 7th grade class** will take a look at Hinduism, while extending their understanding of Unitarian Universalism. After church, the Unitarian Friendship Organization (UFO) is planning a long list of events, including baking for our SOS guests in November and Glo-Bowling on December 11th. The \$10.50 charge includes pizza, pop and shoe rental. Since we must make a deposit

to hold our place at Thunderbird Lanes, 6th and 7th graders should respond to Michelle Lakocy (5lakocy@gmail.com) by Oct. 2nd. A \$5 deposit will hold your spot! The other big event for middle school youth is the annual Heartland Junior High Fall Retreat at Mystic Lake YMCA camp, Oct. 14-16. Interested 6th through 8th graders can register on-line at www.heartlanduu.org by October 7th. (Note: 8th graders will need to be back to BUC by 9:30 on Sunday for OWL.) Parent drivers are needed and should also register.

In the **8th grade, the OWL (Our Whole Lives) class** continues to meet from 9:30 to 12:30 each Sunday. In addition to other fundraisers, ROPE families will introduce BUC to Scrip, a program in which non-profit organizations raise money without selling Stuff! Supporters purchase gift cards (or “scrip”) from the ROPE families to do routine shopping (department stores, books, airline tickets, gas, hotels, on-line shopping, and more) and ROPE earns a percentage on every sale. Please look for the Scrip table in the social hall and come to our informational meeting later in October.

High School Sunday morning class: One of life’s challenges is to define one’s own values and goals amidst the clamor of society’s persuasive voices. As they are creating their lives, a great deal of subtle and overt expectations are placed on young people. Some of these expectations are imposed with the best of intentions. These pressures can come from family, friends, the community and even from within the teen him/herself. November’s *Individual in a Crowd* unit acknowledges that the resulting stress can be isolating, filling an individual with a sense of conflicting obligations, lonely failure or even impending doom. It asks: “What are some of the sources of stress in the lives of today’s youth?”, and “Could a different perspective on those expectations ease their power?” Notably, this unit is far from a comprehensive overview of the challenges America’s youth face – it is merely an examination of some of the experiences shared by young people coming from educated, somewhat affluent families in SE Michigan at this point in time. This unit will focus on 4 areas:

- 1) *What are some of the sources and effects of **stress** in young people’s lives?* Based on current research, could behavioral and attitudinal changes reduce the power of some stress “triggers”?
- 2) *What are the positive and destructive aspects of **competition**?* Are they inseparable? Is competition an inescapable but manageable reality? Should we consider what is within our control and what is not?
- 3) *Who defines “**success**”?* What is the measure of a meaningful life? Can you have one without the other? How might these definitions change over a lifetime?
- 4) *What are some of the benefits of **failure**?* What are some of the risks? How is failure viewed in our culture at this point in history? Is there enough of it? Is there enough honesty about it? Why or why not?

The **GUUSH** youth plan to participate in the Focus: Hope walk on October 9 as part of this year’s social action agenda. The fifth annual kickoff youth conference (aka, “con”), CONtagious, will take place from Oct. 21 to 23 at UU Church of Indianapolis. All interested 9th through 12th grade youth should register at www.heartlanduu.org by October 14th. Parent driver/chaperones are needed and should also register. And here at BUC, plans continue to introduce small groups in GUUSH and to host a youth cluster event for youth from area churches at the end of October.

- ^ Oct. 2 RSVP for UFO Glo-Bowling event to Michelle Lakocy
- ^ Oct. 9 Focus: Hope walk jorah@wowway.com
- ^ Oct. 9 informal “New UU Parent” mtg. (12:30-1:30pm in RE office w/ Eleanor McGuire)
- ^ Oct. 14-16 Heartland Junior High Retreat at Mystic Lake
- ^ Oct. 21-23 CONtagious high school youth con at UII
- ^ Dec. 11 Glo-Bowling at Thunderbird Lanes, 1-3 p.m.

Words and Spirit

Living by Heart

7:00 – 8:30pm – first Monday of every month (Oct. 3rd this month)

Is there a line or a poem that has touched your life? A poem, a song, a reading can become a teacher. It can change you from the inside out. This monthly gathering will be a place to reflect on the meaningful words of others that cross our paths.

Writing as Spiritual Practice

7:00 – 8:30pm – Third Monday of every month (Oct. 17th this month)

Are you interested in finding a regular practice that will help you come into contact with the deepest part of who you are? In this group, we will explore ways of using writing as a tool to do that. We will do some writing while we are together as well as being encouraged to do our own writing in between sessions. Please bring a journal (or pieces of paper) and a favorite pen.

The groups meet monthly at BUC and are facilitated by the Rev. Penny Hackett-Evans.



Music @ BUC

Hello from the Music Directors!

It has been a fantastic start to the new church year and I am encouraged by the enthusiasm of the BUC Choir.

The singers have embraced some new, challenging music in various styles and many congregants have mentioned that they have enjoyed the musical selections of late. ANY singer is welcome, so hesitate no more! Come on Wednesday for a trial-rehearsal and stick around if you find that Choir is for you. This is a warm, friendly bunch and we want your voice with us. Auditions for Chamber Choir (smaller group for really committed, stronger singers) will be Saturday October 1st. All others are welcome in Chalice Choir--no audition necessary. Please continue to let either myself or Steven know when you are pleased or not so we can make sure the music is spiritually satisfying for musicians and listeners alike. Adult and Kids Choir issues: write or call me. All other music issues, please contact Steven.



Speaking of Kids Choir, rehearsals began on Sunday, September 25th from 10:30 till 11:10am. Please email me for more detailed information about the schedule abha.dearing@bucmi.org All kids from 2nd to 7th grades are welcome, so please drop your kids off on time in the Music Room. We'll sing lots, play games and do other activities that will grow our younger musicians. I cannot WAIT to be with them.

The fall church year started with a big bang, and the aftershocks continue. Our beloved pianist Angelina returned to us this September and has been filling our sanctuary with glorious music. The choir has been spot on with their first two challenging works, and the congregants helped ring in folks on our first singing meditation September 18. It was great to hear so many singers, and I hope to do it more frequently.

Next, listen for Indian music to celebrate Diwali in October. Also, we are planning on hosting our first concert November 4 and are looking for volunteers who would be helpful in promotion and planning. Please contact me if you are interested steven.dearing@bucmi.org

Film Buffs Presents: *Queen to Play*

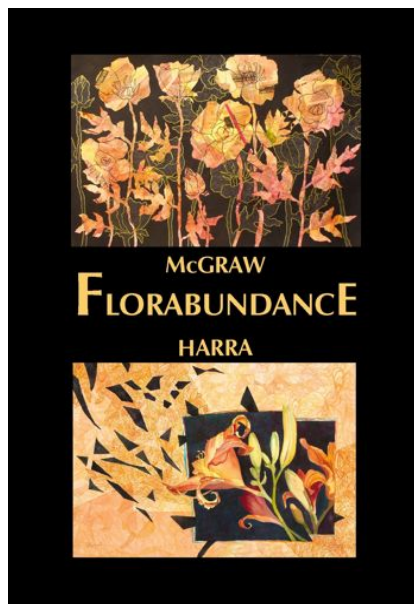
When: Friday, October, 28 at 7 p.m. Where: Commons

"Oscar winner Kevin Kline (*A Fish Called Wanda*) and the luminous Sandrine Bonnaire (*Vagabond*) square off in this sophisticated dramatic comedy of newfound passions and mid-life triumphs, set on the sparkling shores of the island of Corsica. Quietly intelligent and seriously repressed, French chambermaid H el ene (Bonnaire) steps into an entirely new world when she discovers she has a knack—as well as a passion—for chess. Her blossoming obsession leads her to seek the clandestine tutelage of a reclusive American doctor (Kline, in his first French-speaking role)—a liaison that radically transforms their lackluster lives. In French with English subtitles." - *DFT Winter 2011 Film Guide*



"*Queen to Play* is a radically different approach to class and gender empowerment." – Ronnie Scheib, *Variety*
Queen to Play (France, 2009, 96 minutes) was rated PG by the MPAA.
Snacks provided. For more information contact Larry at [248-569-0965](tel:248-569-0965) or LarryWisniew@att.net.

October Artists: Katherine Harra & Pat McGraw



Pat McGraw and Katherine Harra met and became artist-buddies nearly 20 years ago, taking repeated sessions of the well known "Tuesday Night Watercolor" with Susan Kell at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts. The friendship included a small circle of artists who eventually aspired to move to a new level by creating an informal monthly critique group. The artists call themselves Sisters of the Brush. Ever fond of silly acronyms, they immediately abbreviated this to SOBs. The critique meetings got named CEO meetings (for Critiquing Each Other). Now aren't you sorry you asked?

Katherine, recently retired from 30 years in an Information Technology career, was invited to join the Birmingham Society of Women Painters, and has been juried into both of their last two annual exhibits, and awarded Honorable Mentions in each case. She is a board member of the Michigan Watercolor Society. Pat, a retired elementary school teacher, enjoyed art for many years as an avocation. Now she is lucky to have art as her vocation. She also enjoys teaching book making to small groups and traveling to workshops in other states in order to mingle with like-minded

people and get excited about new methods and mediums.

Artists reception, October 28, from 6:00-8:00 in the Gallery & Pavilion at BUC.

BUC Lunch and Movie Group

The BUC Lunch and Movie Group's outings for the remainder of the year will be on these Saturdays: Oct. 22, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. Restaurants and movies are yet to be announced. If interested in being added to the contact list, please email Gail Rouse at gbr1145@att.net.

The Facility @ BUC: a Building Update

BUC Campus EXTERIOR LANDSCAPE PLAN: After identifying, interviewing and visiting projects designed by 4 local landscape architect firms, Facilities has chosen Johnson Hill Land Ethics to develop a landscape master plan for BUC. The board has approved the choice and has forwarded the master plan development contract to George Meyer for his review. Hopefully development of the master plan can be completed over the winter months so decisions about its implementation can be made and planned for. The cost for development of the master plan is \$10,000. Funds to cover the master plan cost have been donated by several BUC members. With the exception of Nancy Duffy, a long standing member of the Facilities committee, no contributor was involved in the choice of the architect firm. It is the intention of the Facilities committee to involve all BUC members in development of the master plan through several meetings between Johnson Hill and BUC membership. We are very excited about this project.

MARSHALL COURTYARD: Concrete replacement for the Marshall Courtyard area has finally been completed. New hand rails on the stairs will be installed within the next few days. They are being fabricated. This job has taken much longer than we ever anticipated but the quality of the work seems to be good. Hopefully (and thankfully) this work won't be needed again for many years.

HANGING SYSTEM FOR ART GALLERY: The art gallery is an area enjoyed by both BUC members and visitors. Choice of a hanging system for the gallery is in progress, will be purchased and then installed. The Facilities Committee will coordinate the hanging system installation; the Art Committee who has funds available will cover the cost of this project.

PARKING LOT: The BUC parking lot is in poor condition. This year the cost to fill in the potholes was \$2,220; however, the parking lot needs to be replaced. Estimates for this work will be obtained and the cost presented to the congregation along with the BUC campus landscape ideas and plans. Replacing the parking lot will be an expensive project and is tentatively planned for 2012.

OTHER PROJECTS IDENTIFIED:

Other projects we have identified a need for and hope to tackle in the near future include: Security – during events and a system for locking the church; Traffic flow in parking lot - directional signage; Re-design /repair to main entry skylight glass – leaks around windows and into church; and Interior Design Standard Guidelines – standardize colors, style, etc for furnishings, wall colors, artwork, etc. for the church interior.

As always, with your help, the Facilities Committee is dedicated to continuing its work to maintain BUC not only for today, but for future years.

Together with you in service for BUC, the BUC Facilities Committee

South Oakland Shelter at BUC November 6 thru 13, 2011

“Save the Dates” This is the largest Needs Network project we do at BUC. For over 20 years, members have done an outstanding job. Thank you! Can we count on YOU this year? Volunteers are needed for driving, food, facilities, host, laundry and special adult and children activities. **Sign up begins Sunday October 9** in the Social Hall. Questions to co-coordinators: email Paul Plante at pplante@twmi.rcom , ph: 734-464-1577 or Grace Rising at gbrising@comcast.net, ph: 248-545-2178.

Volunteers of October ~ Walli & Soren Andersen



“Driving away from Boyne City’s farmers’ market toward Walloon Lake Village in early August, I was brought up short by a sign in front of a “free Baptist” church. Key words: “faith” and (in large, bold, all caps) “NOT WORKS.” I stopped across the road contemplating the sign, thinking of Holy Willy (check your Robert Burns, guys!), reflecting how opposite my world view is: if you don’t help your fellow humans, how CAN your self be whole?”

‘Why do I volunteer?’ Good question. It’s so ingrained that I hardly think about it. My mother, a life-long Methodist, daughter of a strong Methodist woman, worked various volunteer jobs at the church in addition to her full-time teaching job.

Fundamentally, I guess I volunteer because I’m an optimist, I have hope, I believe in Kennedy’s axiom: ‘One person can make a difference, and every person should try.’ I volunteer at BUC because, first, it’s what I do, but more importantly because my values align with those of BUC and because I’m comfortable, really comfortable, with a religion that thinks questions are at least as important as answers, that answers are never “final” and complete, that we’re always learning what we believe, and that we are all connected (that “web of existence”).” ~Walli Andersen

“Upon reflection, I see my participating as a volunteer in BUC activities as a means of satisfying my desire for fellowship in the BUC community despite my introversion. Just going from conversation-to-conversation (as in the after-service Coffee Hour or a social reception) is not a strength of mine; but I am very comfortable carrying on (or even initiating) a conversation in the context of a committee meeting or a working group.

For me, getting to know somebody else is far easier when we are working together. I suppose that meeting others who are willing to work on the same tasks or projects means that we may have the basis for a common interest. However, it turns out for me to be even better when I can be working together with somebody when we have barely any interests in common – then I get the full benefit of what I characterize as “horizon-broadening.”

So, volunteering is something I do for my own benefit as much as for the benefit of anybody or anything else.” ~Soren Andersen

It Gets Better: A Benefit Concert Presented by Motif

Bullying is a problem that affects countless people of all ages, religious beliefs, sexual orientations and races. Join a group of talented musicians as they band together in an effort to celebrate diversity and hope. Motif presents the “It Gets Better” benefit concert on behalf of the Trevor Project.

The Trevor Project is a non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention to LGBT and questioning youth to prevent suicide. They are partners with the It Gets Better Project, a collection of videos that inspire LGBT youth to get through their current difficulties with the promise of a brighter future ahead.

Both of these organizations hold a set of values that match closely to those of Motif: acceptance, commitment and innovation. Together, this diverse group of singers expresses their own difficulties and triumphs through song. By doing so, they illustrate the need for acceptance on an even broader scale.

Come out to support the musicians and their message at 7p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15. Proceeds benefit the Trevor Project. To learn more about the Trevor Project, visit www.thetrevorproject.org. To learn more about Motif, visit www.musicofmotif.com.

A World of Health: Connecting People, Place and Planet

When: Saturday, November 5 and November 19, 2011

A Northwest Earth Institute discussion course, Presented by the Green Sanctuary Committee

"The most fundamental message is for people to remember that the environment is not just something that they visit on weekends or during their summer vacation—that the environment is all around us, that it is in us and we are in it, and that it profoundly influences our health."

--Dr. Philip Landrigan, Director, Children's Env. Health Center, Mt Sinai Medical Center

Participants in this discussion course will:

- Explore the connection between human health and the environment
- Examine the roots of Western medicine and how it has evolved in an industrial society
- Learn about the places where our personal health intersects with the environment— our food, our living spaces, our communities and ultimately, our planet
- Identify actions that promote good health and in turn promote a healthier environment

The discussion will be facilitated by Dan Kosuth, meeting from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Lunch will be provided. **Cost is \$45 per person, or \$65 for couples sharing a course book. Participation is limited to the first 20 to sign up.**

Carolyn McDade and Friends

Coming to BUC on Friday, November 18, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Carolyn McDade and the Gaia Women of the Great Lakes Basin. Please join them in joyfully celebrating the release/launch of Carolyn's newest CD *Widening Embrace*

(All monies raised from the sale of CDs at these concerts as well as goodwill offerings will be donated to individuals, projects or organizations whose work is consistent with the Earth Charter www.earthcharter.org)

Paid Advertisements



Angel, a new novel by
Laura Lee

"This novel is an important work... Angel will make you think about what you believe... I smiled, I laughed, and I cried while reading this book - you will, too!"

-Rev. Craig Bergland,
Presiding Bishop of the
Universal Anglican Church

Professional Home Health Aide

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

Ken Kauffman

1-248-914-1122



Return Address Correction Requested

First Class Postage

38651 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
Ph: 248.647.2380
Web: www.bucmi.org
Email: buc@bucmi.org

Birmingham Unitarian Church

Paid Advertisements, Cont.

SHIFTING- from fear TO LOVE

combining Reiki, Breathing and
Meditation

Teacher – Doris Jacobs, Place - BUC
Commons

Five week course 10/6, 10/13, 10/20,
10/27, 11/3

Time - 7-9 pm, Cost - \$55

What to bring - pillow, yoga mat or
blanket to lay on

Sign-up: 8shifting8@gmail.com

Come BE the CHANGE you want to see

Bonus Class - 11/10 Laughter Workshop
taught by Maggie Batts



Gelek Rimpoche

**TIBETAN BUDDHIST WISDOM
FOR TURBULENT TIMES**

**Free Public Talk – Thursday,
October 20, 7:30 – 9pm**

Birmingham Unitarian Church

Join us for the **RECEPTION** preceding the
talk from **6:30 – 7:30pm** with wine and hors
d'oeuvres generously provided by OM Café of
Ferndale, MI

To register: Phone 734 239 5985 or email:
hartmut@jewelheart.org

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