

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

October 2010

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

October 3: "Breathing Together"

People repeatedly mention "a sense of community" as being what they most value in a church. What does that "sense of community" look like, and how can we have more of it? Kathy and Worship Associate Frank Arvan explore the complex meanings of spiritual community in this service.

October 10: Stewardship Sunday, "From You I Receive, To You I Give"

Both Services will be held in the Social with a special catered brunch and inspiring worship services celebrating the difference BUC has made in the lives of our community. Music, testimonials, and more will be featured in services led by Kathy and Worship Associate Kristi Fielder.

Oct. 17: "Lost"

No one enjoys being lost, either literally or figuratively, in a strange city or within the context of a strange situation or conversation. With GPS systems, we may soon be able to avoid almost all experiences of being lost. But spiritual traditions are full of stories about different kinds of lostness and how such times shape us. Kathy and Worship Associate Grace Rising explore the possibility of whether being lost might be a spiritual practice worth cultivating

Oct. 24: "Living the Blues"

A reprise of their summer service, back by popular demand -- Frank Arvan with Brian

Schandavel, Stuart McAlpin, Hal Breidenbach and Craig Stroup will explore the nature of loneliness and community. The blues music of Sonny Boy Williamson, B.B. King, Bill Withers, Barret Strong and Brian Setzer will be featured.

Oct. 31: El Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

Led by Kathy and Worship Associate Judy Amir, following the Mexican tradition of celebrating the departed, this service will invite sharing memories of those we have loved and lost. Please bring an object that for you symbolizes someone in your life who has died; your objects will be placed on a special altar for the service, and will be returned to you afterwards.

Fall All Church Work Day!

October 9, from 9 a.m.-noon, Facilities and Grounds will offer all those interested in helping to improve our outdoor appearance an opportunity to enjoy great October weather while weeding and raking BUC's grounds. There will be tasty refreshments, good company and the satisfaction of making our BUC grounds look better. It would be helpful to bring trowels and work gloves. Questions? Call Nancy Duffy (248)647-3108 or Fred Straky (248)373-4942

Introducing enhanced food offerings in the Social Hall following our Sunday services, October 3, 17 and 31

Beginning in October, Indulgences Food Company will be offering additional choices to the usual bagel and donut fare. (Never fear, bagels and donuts will still be offered by BUC!)

Including but never limited to fresh pastries, fruit platters, yogurt parfaits, and more. We're experimenting over the next few months after which we'll gather feedback from the congregation. Check it out, give it a try, and let us know what you think!

Suggested donation \$3.00

What Lies Beyond Religion?

A new Adult Religious Education class in the form of a facilitated book discussion will begin on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 9:30 am in the large conference room. The book is *Eternal Life: A New Vision* by John Shelby Spong, a retired Episcopal bishop and widely respected theologian. Spong shares with the reader his own religious journey from fundamentalism to a place that is entirely beyond organized religion but where the spirit is nurtured. This book is less than a year old yet it is the subject of numerous discussion groups throughout the United States and beyond.

The discussions are designed to assist the participants in their own spiritual journeys.

The classes will meet on 8 consecutive Sundays with two book chapters covered at each class.

Commitment to attend each class is not necessary.

All class participants are expected, however, to have pre-read the chapters covered at each class. Chapter one and two will be covered at the first class. Reading the entire book before classes begin is recommended.

Non-participating visitors are welcome. Since classes will be held at the time of the first service, class participants are encouraged to attend the second service. Pre-registration is not necessary.

For further information please contact Diane Lake at diane.lake@comcast.net or 248-626-0222.

South Oakland Shelter at BUC November 7 thru 14, 2010

“Save the Dates”! There are over 300 volunteer slots required to house 30 men, women and children homeless guests at BUC for a week. This is the largest Needs Network project we do. For over 20 years, members have done an outstanding job. Thank you! Volunteers are needed for driving, food, facilities, host, laundry and special adult and children activities. Emerson and Paint Creek will be joining us again this year. Sign up begins Sunday October 10 in the Social Hall. A few leadership positions are still open. The Director of SOS will be included in our Stewardship Sunday testimonials on October 10th in the Social Hall.

Questions to co-coordinators: Paul Plante: pplante@twmi.rr.com , Ph: 734-464-1577 and/or Grace Rising: gbrising@comcast.net , Ph: 248-545-2178

New Member Welcome Ceremony

On Sunday, October 17, part of our services will be dedicated to welcoming all the folks who've signed our membership book in the last six months.

Following the second service there will be a lasagna lunch in the Commons for our newly welcomed members and for those who are interested in the path to membership, or would just like the opportunity to find out more about our church community. At this luncheon we'll be polling folks for their choice of dates for the next New to Unitarian Universalism Class (either Wed. 10/27 in the evening, or Sat. 10/30 in the morning). If you haven't filled out a visitor green sheet and would like to attend please email: lisa.crawford@bucmi.org or you may call the church office at 248-647-2380 and leave a message. We would love the opportunity to feed you lasagna and share our stories.

Please Welcome Our Newest Members	
August 22	Richard Nelson Angela Pearllis John Bohn
September 19	Kateri McMullen
September 26	Jane MacFarlane Eric Pierce

Jason and Jennifer MacDonald

BUC's custodian of twenty years, Jason MacDonald and his wife, Jennifer are expecting their first child together sometime in mid-October. Kathy and the rest of the staff thought it would be lovely to take up a gift collection to help defray some of the many costs that come along with the new little bundle of joy.



If you'd like to contribute to Jason and Jennifer's gift, please see Lisa Crawford in the church office, or place your checks in the collection plate with "Jason's baby gift" in the memo line.

Connections - Joys & Sorrows

"Anne Armstrong passed away at home under the loving care of her family, care givers, and Hospice on September 21. Her sudden passing capped a life full of spirit and loyalty to her family and friends. We will miss her very much and we know her loving spirit will surround and guide us all of our days." ~ Her children and children-in-law, Mike and Allison Hare, Bruce and Vicki Hare, granddaughters Chelsea West and Nichol Hare, sister Virginia Kanyo and her nephews Steve and Russell, and brother Louie Payor. A gathering in remembrance of Anne will be held at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, October 9, at 11:00 in the Sanctuary.

Andie and Robby Stewart became grandparents this summer! Miller James Love was born to Jessa and James Love on July 26th in Columbia, Missouri.

Dick Wiseman along with one of his daughters-in-law completed the Half-Marathon in Virginia Beach with 17,000 other runners!

Catherine Baldwin and Laura Ross both had surgery in September. Both are recovering nicely and have been very appreciative of all the special thoughts that came their way.

Irene Garrity died during the summer. She and her husband James attended BUC several years ago. James had been taking care of her in their home for any years.

Jennifer Bostek is sharing her joy in her sister's return home after a ten month hospital stay.

Bruce Lipka and his wife Sue celebrated thirty-nine years of marriage in September.

Members for the last 27 years, Hal and Cathie Breidenbach, moved to Ann Arbor in September. Hal has been a Worship Associate, the Fellowship Cluster Chair and an active participant in MAMA's coffee house. Cathie has served on the Interiors Committee and as Communications Cluster Chair. Both were involved in BUC's process of becoming a Welcoming Congregation.

Dan and Sue Boyce are moving to Arizona. After October 7th, their address will be 1368 Trailhead, Prescott, Arizona 86305 (it's already been changed in the October Directory). Dan was BUC's choir director for over 24 years. For over 35 years Dan and Sue have given enormously of their time, talent, energy and love to this community.

Memorials and Tributes Update

Many people attended the Alliance Luncheon on Wednesday, September 15 when Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt addressed the group. This was the first event to make use of our new portable lectern with sound system, a gift of the Memorials and Tributes Fund. In addition, the following Sunday, Detroit Chamber Winds used the lectern as part of their fundraising program in the Social Hall.

The Memorials and Tributes fund was established to honor and mark special people, events, memories of members, friends and family of the BUC community. These monies are appropriately used to enhance the environment of our church. These are unbudgeted items the church would not have without this fund.

None of these monies are used for repairs or maintenance. The names of the donors, the honored person, the date, and projects supported by the Fund are recorded in the Memorials and Tributes Book and provide a permanent public acknowledgment of these gifts.

Please stop by the office if you wish to give a contribution in honor of a special event or person in your life.

BUC Film Buffs ~Friday, October 29: Seraphine (France/Belgium, 2008)

"The still little-known yet utterly remarkable painter Seraphine de Senlis (1864 - 1942) was a solitary housekeeper who produced a series of brilliant canvases which today reside in some of the world's most famous galleries. To the locals, the painfully shy Seraphine is never taken seriously, nor, to say the least, is her little seen painting. But when the German art critic Wilhelm Uhde moves to Senlis in 1912, he is immediately thunderstruck by the profound originality and emotion in Seraphine's work, and does everything he can to fuel her creativity. Winner of seven Cesar Awards, including Best Picture, Actress, and Screenplay. In French and German with English subtitles." - DFT Summer 2009 Film Guide. This film is not rated and is 121 minutes long.

The Commons, 7:00 p.m. snacks provided. For more information contact Larry at 248-569-0965 or LarryWisniew@att.net



Reflections

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



Ours is not a culture that encourages risk. While we may admire the person who risks and succeeds in what s/he risked, the failure of a risky venture elicits quick judgment that criticizes the person and the effort precisely because it was a “risky thing to do.” Athletes receive praise for taking risks; yet those who repeatedly risk are likely to be separated out from the rest and relegated to participation in some sort of “extreme” sport in which risk-taking seems less risky by virtue of having become the norm.

For those of us who are neither athletes nor gamblers, risk-taking is discouraged as a sign of poor judgment, an invitation to disaster. The wise among us cover all the bases and get our ducks in a row, sign permission slips and document every action and expenditure, study and stick with the way things have always been done, attend to the latest government warnings and shape our lives in ways that minimize risk and increase safety.

Preoccupation with security and risk-avoidance may be a wise course in many arenas of life, but it does little for spiritual growth. A spiritual path begins with what is known and then moves off into the unknown, demanding greater and greater risk if an individual is intent on continuing. The rules of the path change often, without notice; directional signs are either nonexistent or deliberately ambiguous; feeling secure may be interpreted as evidence of error or illusion, while a sense of insecurity seems to mean that one is heading in the right direction.

Given that spiritual growth will involve risk, often considerable risk, it seems curious that churches tend to be perhaps the most risk-averse communities around. Whether bound by tradition or creed, whether constrained by the need to please everyone or to wait for the new minister to arrive, a congregation that would ideally be encouraging risk as part of supporting spiritual growth seems more likely to inhibit it.

My waivers, strategies for control, insurance policies, and stash of duct tape are useful for navigating these challenging times in which I live. But on my spiritual journey, they only serve to slow me down. If I genuinely seek to grow, I must be willing to travel empty-handed, without weapons, without protective shields, without backup plans, risking all.

In faith, hope, and love,

Kathy

From the Pastoral Care Associates

This is what will be an annual autumn invitation to you from the Pastoral Care Associates to complete the Emergency Information Form attached in this newsletter. Should you ever have an emergency, having returned this form to BUC would allow the Minister or Pastoral Care Associates to contact family or the Patient Advocate Designee you identify 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 will always be available in the church office and on Sundays at the Pastoral Care Table. 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,

Kathy Hurt, Consulting Senior Minister

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

Children Religious Education

Eleanor McGuire, Director of Religious Education for Children



November's Creation Myths rotation aims to explore with our children both the variety and similarity of spiritual experiences found around the world. The origins of the universe, and all it contains, have always been a cause for wonder. For thousands of years, people have made up stories to explain the beginnings of the earth, humankind and the cosmos. All creation stories are beautiful. Additionally, to some believers, these stories are not just elegant and poetic - they are sacred and not to be questioned. In contrast, our UU Fourth Principle challenges us to follow a lifelong path of spiritual growth. Sometimes spiritual growth requires us to question traditional beliefs and look at accepted ideas in new ways. Hopefully, as our children move through these workshops,

they will experience a sense of communion with people throughout the ages as they too struggle for their own personal answers to these larger questions. This rotation asks "What are some similarities amongst creation myths? What are some differences? and "How might a creation myth bring meaning into a person's life?" Here is a brief overview of the workshops and some of the ideas that will be discussed during this rotation:

Science – looks at the history of Galileo's battle with the Catholic Church about the nature of the universe. This workshop will also focus on our UU Fourth Principle which asks us "to follow a lifelong path of spiritual growth"...even when the path leads to uncertainty and conflict. Also, can we believe in science and still believe in God?

Games – familiarizes the kids with the story of the Seven Days of Creation as put forth in the Old Testament in Genesis 1:1-2:4. The kids will hone their factual knowledge of this tale by playing a guessing game with clues and a variation of Pictionary.

Art – focuses on the Hindu creation myth which reveals the universe as endlessly created and destroyed – it has no beginning or end. One Hindu saying goes "There are more universes than there are drops of water in the holy river Ganges".

Storytelling - explores why three of the world's major religions: Islam, Judaism and Christianity, all tell the same creation story due to their shared history. It's widely heard tale of how one God created the world in seven days and it's found in the Qur'an, the Torah and the Old Testament, respectively.

Please contact Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE, with any questions at: eleanor.mcguire@buemi.org

Youth Religious Education

Laura Ross, Director of Religious Education for Youth



Youth Classes

6/7th grades: Neighboring Faiths: These classes focus on an overview of faiths our youth's friends may adhere to, structuring learning about them so that not only may our youth become more understanding and accepting of viewpoints differing from their own, but can also see the similarities among worship practices and theology which bring all religions together. Our youth this year will learn about traditional Judaism, First Peoples' faith, Mainstream Protestant, Catholic, Muslim and Evangelical Protestant faiths. They will learn basic tenets and worship practices, practice being a good

neighbor by worshipping with practitioners at their place of worship, be able to speak to visitors practicing the faith and then will compare and contrast these faiths and Unitarian Universalism.

8th Grade: Our Whole Lives and Rite of Passage Experience: Our Whole Lives is a program which focusses on values, social awareness and human relationships. The second semester, Rite of Passage Experience leads the youth into introspection, asking them to address spirituality and discernment of belief. The year culminates with a Heritage Trip to Boston in April, and the ROPE Service, where the youth present an entire service and their own individual Credo Statements.

9th – 12th Grades: Truth, Ethics and Responsibility: the youth will act upon the UU principles calling for a covenant to affirm and promote spiritual growth and for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. By asking questions about the dominant religions in our society and relating truths about these religions to our own UU history and modern practice, we hope to help our youth apply this knowledge to their own beliefs and continue to grow spiritually. The purpose is not to ask, "Why am I a UU and what do I believe?" but rather, "How does what I believe differ from, or agree with, what my Christian, Jewish, and Muslim friends believe?". They will also address ethics in environmental issues and forge leadership traits through creative expressions of differences with social theories.

Youth Groups:

Unitarian Friendship Organization: 6th & 7th Grades: This youth group is the first stage in our BUC progression of Youth Groups. The youth socialize and perform service projects under the guidance of their parent helpers. Activities have included Halloween Mazes, Wally Ball, Waterparks, Raising money for Endangered Animals, helping with BUC Rummage, and Baking for SOS Guests.

Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE): 8th grade: This youth group is closely tied with the learning structure of the 8th graders' year. The youth also attend overnights, fundraise aggressively for their Boston Heritage Trip, help with BakeOff and serve the community in a chosen Service Project.

Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High (GUUSH): The largest and most autonomous of our BUC Youth Groups, the High Schoolers take the lead on the basics of a well-run Youth Group – leading Worship, Service Projects, attending to Youth-Adult Relations; Learning; Leadership; and Community Building. Our youth are supported and guided by several fantastic advisors who are devoted to helping our youth find and use their voice and their wings, developing as leaders and Unitarian Universalists in our BUC community, district, and nation.

If you have further questions about our Youth Groups or Classes, please talk to Laura Ross, Director of Religious Education for Youth. She can be reached at 248-225-5210 (cell) 248-647-2380 ext. 14 (work) or laura.ross@bucmi.org

Youth Calendar

10/01	GUUSH Overnight Rummage Consolidation 6p – 8a. Permission slips are outside of the Religious Education Office
10/09	6 th & 7 th grade Visit to Jewish Synagogue. Permission slips will be emailed
10/10	GUUSH Meeting. Red Door. 6p-8p. High School Heartland District Kick-Off Con(ference) ConTagious 1st UU Detroit Deadline:
10/8-10	Oct 4. Register at www.heartlanduu.org 6 th – 8 th graders. Mystic Lake Junior High Heartland District Retreat Register at
10/15-17	www.heartlanduu.org . Music/ROPE fundraiser: Chili, Cornbread, fabulous Music and the Warmth of friends! See
10/24	notice in newsletter for more info.
10/24	GUUSH Meeting. Red Door. 6p-8p. High School Heartland District “How To Run A Con Con” Kalamazoo Register at
11/14	www.heartlanduu.org

Musical Notes



BUC welcomed a variety of talented guest musicians over the summer including Paul Abdullah, Soo Choe, Bill Russell and Emmon Scott, Louise Angermeier and Jennie Spenner, the BLUUS band of Craig Stroup, Frank Arvan, Stuart McAlpin, Brian Schandavel, and Hal Breidenbach, and the John Hammer Trio. I enjoyed playing the week we honored Margaret Fuller.

The fall music program is off to a great start. Our first two service Sunday, September 12th, featured our Chalice Choir, under the direction of the multi –talented Abha Dearing.

The Chalice Choir sang on September 19th along with Mike McGillivray on the violin.

Mike and Angelina Pashmakova were featured musicians on September 26th.

In October, Chalice Choir will sing the first and third Sundays, the second Sunday is Stewardship Sunday, which will include Angelina playing “dinner music” at brunch! If you missed this summer’s BLUUs Service, be sure to mark your calendar for the reprise on October 24. It is a great service you won’t want to miss!

October 24 will be a great day of music at BUC! After the BLUUs service, plan to stay for our Second Annual Fall Fundraiser Concert to Benefit R.O.P.E. and the music program. R.O.P.E. families will serve a chili lunch right after second service. The concert will begin at 1:30. At this time we have commitments from Jim Bizer, Soo Choe, Cathy Sherwin, Mike McGillivray and Angelina Pashmakova -- a fantastic line up. Suggested donation of \$15 at the door covers lunch and the concert.

New Choir Schedule

BUC choirs have resumed and are presenting musical offerings in both services. There are choirs for all ages, so if you like to sing come check out the one the best suits you. This year the adult choirs will be singing at both services twice a month

Top Ten Reasons to Sing in the Choir

10. You get the best parking spots.
9. You have reserved seating every Sunday!
8. You can see the faces of everyone in the congregation, not just the backs of their heads!
7. You get a free back rub from your neighbor during warm ups!
6. You get to hang out with some amazingly talented musicians!
5. You get to leave second service early!
4. There is free food after every rehearsal!
3. You have a beautiful view of nature from the choir loft.
2. It’s fun and rewarding, AND you can improve your musical skills!
1. Your BUC family wants to hear you!

Concerts and Programs by BUC Musicians

The Woodward Corridor Musicians will present an Autumn Concert “Bohemian Style” on Sunday, October 3, 2010 at 3:00 pm here at BUC. Tickets \$10 Donation—Available at the Door. Children K-12 admitted free. BUC members Lillian and Walter Dean, Dan Boyce, and Barbara Woolf are members of the group. What a great opportunity to expose your children to high quality music making.

The BUC Choirs are off to a fine start. After auditions on September 22, the smaller Chamber Choir and Chalice Choirs are geared up for the year. We’ll look forward to presenting high quality choral music to enhance and complement the worship services at BUC. Have you considered joining choir but never actually sought me out or tried a Wednesday rehearsal? Well, this is a perfect time to join. We are just getting into a groove and we need YOU to dance along with us (not literally, unless you want to, of course). This fall, we’ll sing songs in many languages and many styles. You might also consider coming with us on the big UK 2011 Tour. We need more singers in order to make the tour a reality. We have shows lined up in England already, so we just need the voices! Please contact me for more information.

Abha Dearing

www.dearingconcertduo.com

We Walk in Hope

Carol Ann Arvan, Congregation and Board President



I'm convinced there are basically two ways to experience the world: with hope or with fear. Most people I've met are usually grounded in one or the other.

Some choose to view strangers with suspicion, to read nefarious intent in any action, to wait with bated breath for the other shoe to drop. Reflecting BUC's Religious Education focus this season, their Golden Rule might read "Do in others before they have a chance to do you in." These are the folks who walk in fear.

And then some choose to be open to others, to assume the best until proven otherwise, to greet each challenge as an opportunity. Their Golden Rule is the more traditional "Treat others as you want them to treat you." These are the people who walk in hope.

Now I'm not saying we're either all one or the other. If this were the case, we'd probably be diagnosed as either paranoids or Pollyanna. But there's a natural tendency to embrace either hope or fear on a daily basis. Which has the greater gravitational pull in your life? Are you a glass half full or half empty kind of person?

As we consider BUC as a community, we can see it through a kaleidoscope of hope or a glass block of fear – the choice is entirely ours.

There are many reasons we come together here. Some of us come to BUC and give time, treasure, talent because we know that by supporting BUC we help support and nurture not only our BUC family but our broader communities: Metro Detroit, Southeast Michigan, the Heartland District of the Unitarian Universalist Association (the UUA), the broader UUA, folks who have fully embraced our UU principles and way of living and those who haven't but who still seek justice, equality, democracy, fairness.

Others of us support BUC because we want it to be here when we need it, to support us in our times of need and grief and to celebrate with us when we're joyful. Still others are part of the BUC family because we want to ensure religious freedom, tolerance; diversity and truth seeking continue to have a safe haven and are allowed to thrive in our increasingly polarized national and global communities.

There's probably a little of each of these in the minds, hearts and motives of most BUCers. We want support, we want to care for our neighbors and we want to ensure this care and our religious way of life will continue long after we're gone. That's why we come to and support BUC. As a community, we walk in hope.

Together with you in service to BUC and beyond,

Carol Ann

The Sacred and the Profane Adult RE Discussion Group

The group met on September 15 to discuss "Is Morality Possible without Religion?" Alex Adah opened the meeting by offering two texts: one proposing that morality derived from God, and the other from secular sources. There followed a lively discussion among the fifteen attendees. Among the suggested sources of non-religious morality were: instinct; training by parents, and individual application of philosophical principles. There was awareness that some moral issues were influenced by cultural background; and that an individual's moral viewpoint may change during his/her lifetime.

The group will next meet on Wednesday, October 20 2010 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the subject of "Love". This group is open to members and friends of the church all of whom are welcome to attend.

Social Justice and Outreach

MOSES (*Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength*) the Detroit - based, interfaith, multiracial community action organization, will hold its public meeting this year at **Bethel AME Church on Sunday, October 10 at 3:30 pm.**

BUC has been a member of MOSES for many years. Over the past couple of years we have hosted forums on health care reform and regional mass transit. Most recently a group of BUCers joined with volunteers from other MOSES congregations in the *Be SMART, Ride the Bus* action.

The public meeting is an opportunity to connect and reconnect with our fellow members from congregations, institutions and service organizations throughout the Detroit metropolitan region in a show of unity and commitment to reform which is especially critical in this election year.

Our theme is *Regionalism ... Opportunity and Equity*. The issues are: Regional Mass Transit; HealthCare Equity; and Food Justice for Detroit

If we can fill the seats, MOSES will provide bus transportation from BUC to the Public Meeting. But we need to know who is coming! Please stop by the MOSES table in the Social Hall after service to learn more about MOSES, and to reserve your spot on the bus, or, contact Pat Hammer 248.644.6568 / patriciajhammer@gmail.com

Upcoming Social Justice Opportunities:

- BUC is doing the South Oakland Lunch on Dec. 4 – signup begins October 31.
- Standing on the Side of Love Immigration Reform and LGBT Justice Sat., Nov. 20 at Northwest UU in Southfield.

Alliance



BUC Alliance began its 57th year in fine style with an overflow crowd at the first meeting! This is an election year, so our Wednesday, October 20 program will inform us about a ballot proposal. Our speaker will be Eric Lupher, Director of Local Affairs at the [Citizens Research Council of Michigan](http://www.crcmich.org). Proposal One is a far-reaching \$45 million measure which will determine whether or not there will be a Constitutional Convention to revise the Michigan Constitution. This issue must be addressed every 16 years. The CRC website (www.crcmich.org) describes the structural issues in re-writing the Constitution and lists potential topics for amendments.

Everyone is invited to bring a Brown Bag lunch to the Pavilion at Noon, or come for the program about 1:00 p.m. (probably in the Commons). Alliance will supply homemade cookies and beverages.

November 17 is our special off-site meeting, which will be a tour of Forgotten Harvest in Oak Park. We will meet at BUC at 11:00 a.m. to form carpools – don't forget your Brown Bag! At noon we'll eat in their conference room while we see a short video and hear from Forgotten Harvest Staff, to prepare us for our tour. (At the October meeting we'd like to get an estimate of the number planning to go.) Check your calendar to be sure you have this date and times – and that of our Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 8, at the Radisson Kingsley. See you October 20!

Winter Sports Enthusiasts – Abe Amir is putting together the annual trip to Sault Ste Marie, Canada. The dates are January 21-23. Hotel rate is \$119 Canadian (plus tax) per night. More information to come. Email Abe at aamir@wowway.com to add your name to the list or for more details.

Senior Minister Search

Update: one of our major endeavors at BUC this fall is resuming our search for a new settled senior minister.

The committee of seven BUC members that has worked for the last two and a half years in this effort has seen some changes. We owe profound thanks to those who have needed to step down: Matt Chope, Gregg Bloomfield, Dick Halsted and Kym Worth. Their contributions to the search effort have been greatly appreciated.

Continuing on the committee are Judy Amir, Teresa Honnold and Marilyn Mast. Joining the search team with their enthusiasm, energy and intelligence are Julie Fream, Eric Pierce, Ed Sharples and Alexa Stanard.

The newly re-constituted committee is hard at work. They have held their all-committee retreat, resulting in new co-chairs of Eric Pierce and Marilyn Mast, Treasurer Julie Fream and Secretary Judy Amir. The full committee's first meeting was Aug. 30 and focus groups with newer BUC members were held Sept. 19. The committee is busy editing the Congregational Record and updating the Search Packet.

We will keep you informed of our progress throughout the year, and please don't hesitate to contact a committee member with questions or input.

Plate Collection Update

On behalf of the Plate Collection Committee, I want to thank you for your generosity this summer. We were able to give \$722.73 to The Lighthouse of Oakland County so that they could restock their pantry and distribute food to their clients. Our current plate collection is for The Michigan Unitarian-Universalist Social Justice Network, which enables a strong UU voice for justice to be heard on a statewide basis.

How it works: the total plate collection intake is counted, and then 10% is set aside for a discretionary fund so that the minister can respond to emergency local needs, like someone who appeals to us when their electricity is shut off. The remaining total is divided into two

portions: 65% for the church and 35% for the donations. If you put a check in the plate on Sunday made out to BUC, note in the memo line "pledge" if it is for your pledge. If you make out a check directly to the charity, it will go to the charity.

Charities are chosen from applications sent to the Plate Collection Committee by members interested in sponsoring them for a donation. You can find the Common Grant Application Cover Sheet on our website in the "Church Business" section of the directory.

Applications for November-January are due on October 1 and can be put in the Plate Collection Mailbox at BUC or sent to avpratt@aol.com. – Annis Pratt, Committee Chair

Saturday, October 30th MAMA's @ BUC

MAMA's Coffeehouse presents Cindy Kallet and Grey Larson with Dan Bracken opening.

Cindy's songs embody her love for the natural beauty of the New England coast. Through her years as a musician, traveler, teacher, naturalist, carpenter, and mother, she has distilled unique insights and imagery. The duo's repertoire includes Cindy's sparkling original songs, distinctive settings of traditional Irish music, Scandinavian fiddle duets, old-time fiddle and guitar tunes from southern Indiana, and new music that Cindy and Grey are inventing together.



From his father's jazz collection, and the Motown and rock and roll of his youth, to recording and producing classical, jazz, folk, and gospel during many years associated with Public Radio, Daniel Bracken has incorporated all of this into his own unique style as a singer-songwriter. He performs finger-style guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, and piano. Dan's music is sprinkled with liberal hints of traditional Irish and American roots.

WOODWARD CORRIDOR MUSICIANS - CHAMBER
CONCERT AT BUC

Sunday, October 3, 2010; 3:00 pm
Tickets: \$10 at the door; K-12 admitted free

"Bohemian Style" Autumn Concert:

- Quartet for Flute, Guitar, Viola and Cello, arranged by Franz Schubert
- Wind Serenade in D Minor by Antonin Dvorak

All are welcome! For further information, see
www.WoodwardCM.org
or contact Lillian Dean: 248-546-5818;
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Leigh Daniels Ensemble to debut new works at October 23 concert in Bloomfield Hills

(Ann Arbor) The Leigh Daniels Ensemble will perform on **October 23, 2010 at 8:00 pm at the Birmingham Unitarian Church**, located at 38651 Woodward Avenue at Lone Pine, just one mile north Birmingham. Tickets are \$15 each at the door, and just \$10 for BUCmi members. Admission includes a copy of the Ensemble's latest CD, "Six Steps to Heaven."

Jazz and classical fans will delight in the elaborate, quick-witted compositions in Daniels' original music, performed by twelve of the area's top musicians. In addition to some of the traditional jazz instruments, Daniels has added viola, violins, cellos and mandolin to the Ensemble. "Our music is hard to categorize" explains Daniels. "Generally, when people think of jazz, they think of sax and trumpet. But I took a chance with the strings, and I really like the combination. I found that it gives us a lot more choices in terms of colors and textures. The strings bring a different aesthetic, allowing us to go for something softer, with a wider range." Daniels is a fan of Charles Mingus' complex handling of dissonance, but admits that it is not the predominant factor for Ensemble pieces. "I need to have a good, strong melody that people can connect to, to make the music more accessible."

Return Address Correction Requested

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Birmingham Unitarian Church

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