

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

January 2012

Worship Services @ BUC

9:30 and 11:15*

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

Jan. 1: *10:30 ONE SERVICE "Table Topics"

Welcome in the New Year with by joining Kathy and Worship Associate Grace Rising for a single service in the Social Hall. We'll all gather together at tables in the Social Hall with coffee & bagels to talk about where we see ourselves, our church and our country heading in the coming year. Conversational format, with tables for children's activities also available. Welcome 2012!

Jan. 8: "Running on Empty"

With the holidays past and winter months of cold and little daylight ahead, what keeps us going? Is it possible to carry some of the holiday spirit beyond the holidays themselves? Kathy and Worship Associate Elaine Morse look for glimmers of light and hope in this sometimes challenging post-holiday time.

Jan. 15: "A Stone of Hope"

A multigenerational service celebrating the inspiration provided by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King during darkest times, led by Kathy, Worship Associate Gregg Bloomfield, and Lifespan Education Team member Pamela McAlpin.

Jan. 22: "Cabin Fever"

Continuing the month long theme of finding spiritual sustenance after the intensity of the holiday season, Kathy and Worship Associate Judy Amir explore the spiritual possibilities for growth when all the world around us seems lifeless or asleep.

Jan. 29: "Lifted Voices"

A special service of hymn-singing led by guest musician Jim Scott, BUC Co-Directors of Music Steven and Abha Dearing, and Worship Associate Lisa Demian.

Drop-In Book Club, Jan. 26

Thursday, January 26 (6:30 in the Red Door Classroom across the courtyard). This month's selection, *The Marriage Plot* by Jeffrey Eugenides. Check it out, if it sounds interesting, please join us!

Needs Network

Nighttime warming centers: Volunteers are needed on Sunday, January 29 to wash the 100+ loads of laundry used by St. Mary's warming center. This is an early morning activity that has proven to be a pleasant, social volunteer gathering as well as providing a useful service. Participants can spend a flexible amount of time. Drivers will also be needed. Please contact Margaret Marsh by email – mmarsh96@yahoo.com or by phone – 248-288-3411.



Alliance

Happy New Year! We are happy to report that our holiday luncheon special request gift offering from our forty-eight guests, collected on behalf of Communities United for Children (AKA the Whitmer School) raised a total of \$1,032! Heartfelt THANKS to each of you from the Alliance Board and CUFC. CUFC currently involves twenty WHRC families for a total of eighty-three children. This money will help provide healthy food to send home on Fridays, a time when many of the families are in need of assistance.

Alliance begins its monthly Third Wednesday meetings on January 18th with a very special program. We will have a speaker from the Detroit Institute of Arts presenting a slide show of the current exhibition, “Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus.” This exhibit runs until



Rembrandt van Rijn, c. 1648-50, oil on oak panel. Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Gemäldegalerie, Berlin.

February 12 at the DIA. This notable show was organized by the DIA, the Musée du Louvre in Paris, and the Philadelphia Museum.

Our DIA writes: “Seven powerful and emotional portraits of Jesus by Rembrandt and his students are brought together for the first time in this exhibition of sixty-four intimate works... Rembrandt broke from tradition by portraying Jesus as a compassionate, complex human being.”

Our Brown Bag lunch begins at Noon in the Pavilion, with Alliance providing beverages and homemade cookies. The program will begin at about 1:00 in the Commons.

Brochures for the 2011-2012 program year are in the pamphlet rack in the foyer. Note that we do not meet in May, but are active in the Spring Rummage Sale April 29-May 5! We welcome all interested persons to attend our programs.

February preview: “Educational Reform in Action – Offering an International Option.” We will have two speakers from nearby charter International High Schools.

Connections - Joys & Sorrows

Shirley Hodas, one of BUC’s first members, fell and suffered two minor leg and elbow breaks. She’s been spending a few weeks in rehabilitation and appreciates your positive thoughts and well wishes.

Ed Sharples brother-in-law died in December. He lived in Massachusetts.

Kathy DuHame’s is having a tough time following his recent surgery, Kathy wishes to express her thanks for all the wonderful support she has received from everyone.

Kathy Hayes, daughter of Lucille McNaughton, had the first of several colon reconstruction surgeries on December 4. It was a successful surgery.

Marj Taylor’s long time companion is in the hospital recovering from a stroke. He is in good spirits and is entertaining the nurses.

Randy and Kate Safford celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary the week of December 18, but more importantly it is Kate’s fourth anniversary of surviving a very rare abdominal aneurysm. We celebrate with you both!

Margaret and Stephen Marsh’s daughter, Ann Marsh, captured the Veteran Women’s Division Fencing Crown at a recent 2011 Kansas City North American Circuit Event. Ann is a former U.S. National Team member who was recently inducted into the U.S. Fencing Hall of Fame.

The Lighthouse

Thank you for the holiday gift donations for the Lighthouse. They were stunning this year! Your generosity will help to make the Christmas season brighter for families in the Pontiac area. Thanks to Denise Newman for delivering our gifts.

Words & Spirit Continues in January

Living by Heart - a group dedicated to the practice of finding inspiration in poetry and prose. Bring a poem you would like to spend some time with -- Meets January 2 from 7:00 - 8:30 in the Large Conference Room.

Writing as Spiritual Practice

meets January 16 from 7:00 - 8:30 in the Large Conference Room.



Getting to know UU Session Wednesday, January 25

Join us at 7:00 on Wednesday, January 25 for session three in our "Getting to Know UU" series. If you're interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and deepening your connections at BUC, join us in the Commons from 7:00-9:00. Attendance of previous sessions is not necessary for participation in this one. Whether you've just started coming to BUC, or if you've been coming for a while (years perhaps?), this session we will address "Developing Relationships @ BUC." Session four will be on February 29 and will focus on "Unitarian Universalism in the World Today."

"Good Without God?"

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group is discussing Greg Epstein's book, *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe* on Sundays in the Large Conference Room at 9:30. This book inspires – both the reader and lively discussion.

Dick Nelson created a facebook page for this discussion group. If interested, go to BUC's

facebook page and check out pages we've "liked" on the left of the screen, there's a link to the group. The picture for the online discussion page is the chalice in our sanctuary, created by potter, John Glick. Even if you can't make the Sunday discussion group, you're welcome to join the online discussion.

Sacred and Profane Discussions

On Jan. 18th we'll discuss improving our relationships with the non-human world to complete the subject of relationships. We meet on the third Wednesdays at 10:30 until noon in the large conference room.

Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles

BUC Film Buffs: Friday, January 20 at 7 p.m. in the Commons

"From director Zhang Yimou (*Raise the Red Lantern*) comes an intensely moving story of one man's physical and emotional odyssey. Veteran Japanese star Ken Takakura plays an aging resident of a Japanese fishing village who learns that his estranged son is seriously ill.

Rushing to the Tokyo hospital, he is crushed to discover that his son refuses to see him. Rather than accept defeat, the father has an idea—one which will require him to make a vast journey through the countryside of China, since he believes that there is but one task he

can perform that will change his son's mind." -

DFT Fall/Winter 2006 Film Guide
Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles (China, 2006, 107 minutes) was rated PG (mild thematic elements) by the MPAA.



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

Reflections

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



One of the certainties of life, along with death and taxes, is the inevitability of broken New Year's resolutions. The new year turns, we intend to make changes in our customary ways of going about our lives, and in short order forget, resist, despair, screw up, yield to temptation, and otherwise break the resolutions. In fact, so certain are New Year's resolutions to be broken that some of us no longer even bother to make them, as they seem meaningless, the resolve an empty exercise in self-deception. Why resolve to lose weight and exercise more, to be kinder to family and friends, to attend church regularly and volunteer in the community, to do anything that would seem to enhance our lives and our self-esteem if we are sure to fail?

Saint Frances de Sales, a seventeenth-century bishop and mystic, counseled those seeking to cultivate a regular practice of prayer, "If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently. And even if you did nothing during the whole hour but bring your heart back, though it went away every time you brought it back, your hour would be very well employed." In other words, perseverance in the spiritual practice of prayer is not only about staying focused, but equally importantly about returning to focus whenever focus is lost.

Perhaps the same counsel can serve us with regard to New Year's resolutions. That we are guaranteed to break them is no reason to give up in advance; what we do with the inevitable breaking is part of the whole point. We make the resolution, we fail at keeping it—and then, following de Sales' counsel, we gently go back and try again. It is not only the keeping of a resolution that can benefit us, but how we manage the failures as well. May this New Year bring you opportunities for changing your life, and opportunities also for gracefully navigating those times you try without success to change your life. Both movements are equally part of our journey towards wholeness.

Faithfully, Kathy

New Small Groups Fellowships Forming in 2012

"Guided by reason and intuition, and drawing on new insights as well as from the wisdom of the past, Unitarian Universalism is a religion Uniquely suited to this time of rapidly expanding knowledge and sometimes startling change. Most Unitarian Universalists believe this is true. So why are we managing to serve so few?"

"The short answer is contentiousness. The longer answer is that because of our theological diversity, we have not organized our congregations in ways that invite open expression of beliefs and life experiences. Lacking the safety of structures that encourage the sharing of commonality-rich stories, we have attended to our differences, argued among ourselves, and scared away the spiritually needy who come to us in search of what we promise. ... I have been struck by the lonely resignation of some strong and dedicated UU's who confessed to me that they were leaving their churches in search of religious communities that might be able to attend more deeply and respectfully to their needs for spiritual growth." — Robert L. Hill, *The Complete Guide to Small Group Ministry* (2003 Skinner House Books)

I'm finding new members for existing SGF's, and organizing new groups. I've heard from several people, but I'm guessing there are more. If you're interested in a deeper experience of community at BUC and would like to try a Small Group Fellowship, please contact me. I'll be in the Social Hall most Sundays in January, following the services or you can email me at lisa.crawford@bucmi.org If one of your New Year's resolutions is to live your life more fully in our faith community, this may be just the thing you're looking for.

Lifespan Religious Education

Pam McAlpin, Director of Performing Arts & Adult Education pam.mcalpin@bucmi.org
Kimery Campbell, DRE for Youth kimery.campbell@bucmi.org
Eleanor McGuire, DRE for Children eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org

Adult Religious Education

Multi-gen service “Magic” - Special thanks to the No-Fault Orchestra, Dick Wiseman (his first magic appearance out of costume), and Liz Wendell for being the brains behind the “Nemo” air swimmer. Kathy and Camille added just the right touch throughout the service. The bubble wrap symphony made everyone an honorary Orchestra member. Bravo!

December 9th was our first Friday: Food, Faith, and Fun. We had 45 congregants old and young participant in a potluck (unbelievable) and shared community vespers, ending with a carol sing-a-long around the piano. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to share your talents.

NEW: Fridays: Food, Faith, Fun/**Fulfillment**. On January. 13th, the next Food, Faith, and Fun will join with the Friday: Food, Faith, and Fulfillment (adult education). There will be a family movie, an adult movie, and a class on articulating your faith: a step by step approach similar to the 8th grade ROPE program for adults to explore what they currently believe. Sign-ups for both will be in the Social Hall after services.

Children’s Rotation Curriculum

January’s *Avoiding Sin* rotation explores with our children how our religion guides us in leading moral lives. All of the major religions have different answers to the question of what causes sin and suffering. This rotation asks: “What is sin?” “How do we sin?” and “Who determines what is a sin?” The children will contemplate four different responses:

- 1) Original Sin – Are we born with weaknesses, as shown by how Adam and Eve disobeyed God? Do we need help and guidance managing our own fallibilities?
- 2) Buddhist Four Noble Truths – Do human beings cause their own suffering when they do not accept hardships and the lack of control in their lives as natural parts of life?
- 3) Seven Deadly Sins & the Ten Commandments – Can there be a comprehensive set of laws to govern us? Will new situations always arise?
- 4) Kohlberg’s Moral Development – Are humans capable of developing a strong moral conscience on their own? What kind of help do they need from the people around them?

Related questions that may be addressed within this rotation are: “Is it a sin if it just hurts you?” “Mistakes/cruelties will happen – is the most important thing what you do afterward?” “Is your true character what you do when no one is looking?”

Youth Religious Education

The 6th-7th grade class will begin 2012 with a 2-week look at traditional Chinese religions, including a Jan. 22nd Chinese New Year celebration. Thank you to first term teachers Scott Farrar, Gary Hancock, and Carey Wendell! On Jan. 29th, second term teachers Debbie Fordree, Stuart McAlpin, and Eric Sargent will launch a 4-week Buddhism unit. Parents for the youth group (UFO) are planning a progressive dinner for later this winter.

Now that OWL is over, the 8th grade youth, will be introduced to the **ROPE** (Rite of Passage Experience) program with a late-nighter on Sat., Jan., 7th from 6 to 11 in the Commons. They will meet advisors Emilia Askari, Glenn Hoffrichter, and Bruce Webber, socialize, and learn about this second half of BUC’s coming of age program. A parent meeting to discuss ROPE, including details of the

Boston trip (especially money matters), will take place Jan. 8th after second service. Please note the Scrip report on the front page.

In January, the **high school** youth will begin a new curriculum, Civic Duty, with teachers Ann Duncan and Rob Lawrence. A core principle of the UU faith is that we must live our beliefs. January's *Civic Duty* workshops offer tools for defining one's beliefs in order to take action. For instance, supporting the Common Good might be defined as "nurturing the parts of our lives that we share with one another and should pass on to the next generation". Among the many questions these workshops ask are: "What are the responsibilities of every citizen?" and "What might be the best way to support the common good?" Four aspects of civic duty are explored:

*What **areas of our lives** do we share?* Does the health of every individual now depend on the health of the larger community & ultimately extend beyond our borders? After briefly examining the history and eradication of polio, BUC's youth will examine the issues behind the Global Viral Forecasting Initiative.

*What are our **responsibilities as citizens**?* To better understand the role of informed voting & taxes, this workshop will examine some basic facts and misconceptions that complicate discussions about the federal budget. How can a person find the truth? What is being omitted from budget discussions?

*What is our **responsibility to future generations**?* When is it important to shift our focus away from ourselves, from immediate wants and desires, looking instead at long-term needs and goals? This workshop looks at how we might address the rising cost of college, both as individuals and as a nation.

*What can we **accomplish through our own efforts**?* Can our government do everything for us? What is the role of the "profit motive" in supporting the common good? What should be the relationship between non-government entities, both for-profit and non-profit organizations, in global health issues?

There will be regular **GUUSH** meetings on the 8th and 22nd. The annual high school retreat at Mystic Lake YMCA camp will take place the weekend of January 13-15, featuring YMCA-staff-led activities and BUC-planned workshops and worship, plus small group fellowship time. Get those forms in no later than Jan. 8th! Then, on Jan. 28th, our high school youth will host a second cluster event: a day of arts-themed workshops and camaraderie to which all youth in Michigan UU churches have been invited. For a mere \$10 registration fee, participants will choose from a menu of visual, musical, and movement sessions, enjoy two meals, and wrap up the day with an evening worship and coffee house. These cluster events are intended to supplement the district-sponsored conferences in building connections between UU youth in our own area and beyond.

All 6th through 12th grade youth: Youth Sunday is March 18! We are still discussing this year's theme, so get your ideas into Kimery. And watch for a notice of the first Youth Sunday planning session!

Upcoming dates:

- Jan. 7 ROPE Late-nighter kickoff, 6 to 11 p.m. in BUC Commons
- Jan. 8 ROPE Parent meeting, 12:30 to 2 p.m., Commons
- Jan. 8 GUUSH meets, 6-8 p.m.
- Jan. 13 Friday: Food, Faith, Fun/Fulfillment
- Jan. 13-15 High School retreat at Mystic Lake YMCA
- Jan. 28 GUUSH-sponsored high school cluster event, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., BUC

Questions about Youth RE can be addressed to Kimery Campbell at kimery.campbell@bucmi.org

Changes in BUC's Committee Structure

Beginning this month, we are putting in place a new structure for BUC's committees. Kathy Hurt and Drieka DeGraff mapped out a proposed structure, presented it to all committee chairs for feedback, reworked it and presented it to the Board, and it is now ready for a field test, to be put into actual use to determine whether it achieves the desired goals of clarity and enhanced decision-making processes.

In addition to the existing Program Council, we are creating two new councils: Administration and Inreach/Outreach. We have made this change in order to improve communication and coordination, better align our efforts and increase our focus on inreach and outreach activities. Kathy will continue to chair the Program Council, and will also chair the two new councils. (The Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Scott Farrar and Debbie Fordree, will continue to report directly to the congregation.) The councils and their member committees are shown below. If you have any questions about the new councils, or if you'd like to get involved, please contact any of the committee chairs or Kathy.

Administration Council

Personnel (Drieka DeGraff)
Finance (Chris Music)
Health & Safety (Dick Halstead)
Facilities (Inta Davis)

Program Council

Worship (Kristi Fielder)
Music (Mary Jo Larson)
Green Sanctuary (Karen Stankye)
Children & Youth Religious Education (Sylvia Whitmer)
Fellowship (Margot LeRoy)

Inreach/Outreach Council

Committee on Ministry (Kathy Hurt)
Pastoral Care Associates (Kathy Hurt)
Membership (Bret Bergeron)
Small Group Fellowship (Lisa Crawford)
Denominational Affairs (tbd)
MAMA's Coffeehouse (Jim Bizer)
Prague Partner Church (Ron Fredrick)
Service & Justice (Mary Jo Ebert & Ilene Beninson)

BUC Facilities ~ Landscape Plan Update

The first meeting of the landscape master plan committee with Mark Johnson and Jessica Neafsey of Johnson-Hill Land and Ethics Studio on, November 19 from 9 – 1, included a review of the site, project goals and priorities. The plan will provide BUC with a comprehensive landscape plan emphasizing sustainability and low maintenance while improving the aesthetics of our entire campus. There is to be special emphasis on our Woodward frontage and the Lone Pine entrance, including signage in both locations, the main "front door" entrance courtyard, the Marshall courtyard, the lower entrance to the Capek Woods, and the Memorial Glen.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning, January 7, 2012, where Johnson-Hill will present the first design alternatives in sketch form for the committee's review and comment. BUC members with questions or comments are encouraged to speak with one of the committee members: John Hammer, Bret Bergeron, Keith Brown, Nancy Duffy, Priscilla Hildum, Dan Kosuth, George Lentz, Stephanie Patil, Annette Sargent, William Sargent, Dick Schwing, or Jim Shettel. These members were selected to represent a cross section of the membership in addition to three members from Facilities & Grounds Committee.

Music @ BUC



Happy New Year, Music Folk! We had a fantastic fall season and now, I hope you are well rested and ready to begin 2012 with us. NOW is an ideal time to sing in the BUC Chalice Choir. All of the music will be new for the whole choir, so why not come and give it a whirl? This winter and spring, we will have another Choral Clinic, prepare for meaningful Choir Sunday services and enjoy lots of singing and fellowship as we join at least 10 other UU churches for our UU Choir Festival 2012. I hope to welcome some new voices into the Chalice Choir and perhaps reinstate the audition-only Chamber Choir for some services this winter. It is a fine time to sing at BUC.

Questions? Email me at abha.dearing@bucmi.org

The month of December had our church musically filled with choirs, congregational singing, and instruments. The Chalice choir did a fine job on the annual holiday large work, tackling "Carols and Lullabies" by Conrad Susa. All came together well as they were joined by harpist Margot Hayward and percussionist Lynn Koch, and yours truly. Thanks to Eric Sargent for recording the services.

The kids choir performed two holiday songs at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service, and the Chalice choir graced us at the 8:00 service with two songs. We are so blessed to have all those singers who volunteer to fill our space with wonderful sound, (plus it is a lot of fun). Children's Choir rehearsal begins on Jan. 22.

Many cheers for Barbara Woolf who stepped in mid month to replace Angelina while she spent time with her mother in Bulgaria.

Looking ahead, we will have Jim Scott on January 29, who will lead us in congregational singing.

Steven Dearing steven.dearing@bucmi.org

MAMA's Coffeehouse, January 21 ~ Generations

Generations (Dean Rutledge, Harry Miller & Steve Kowalski)

Dean Rutledge is a former member of the New Christie Minstrels and the Kingston Trio. He is well known in the Midwest folk community – especially in Detroit – where he has toured since the 1960's. Playing guitar and banjo, Dean crosses the musical spectrum of folk, pop, and gospel, and entertains audiences with his own original pieces. You will be delighted as Dean weaves music and memory. He and his friends Steve Kowalski and Harry Miller form the group called Generations.

Come and enjoy the music as they bring the past alive and offer up a night of feeling and fun! Doors open at 7:00 show starts at 8:00



January Volunteer of the Month Paul Plante

I have had a wonderful life, and always felt a need to share with others. We had very little money in my youth, but I had a wonderful, happy, hard working family. BUC affords Me many opportunities to volunteer. I have focused on these: South Oakland Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Greening of Detroit and GUUSH. SOS provides opportunities to people currently down on their luck. Strangers supplied some of these opportunities to my family when we needed it. I have never forgotten that.

I like building things. Habitat provides that opportunity while making a contribution. Greening provides so many different opportunities including added beauty to marginal communities, and improving the environment. How can you not love this one!

I love young people. They will inherit these volunteer positions. I want to help them do that, while growing in themselves. Those of us who have so much, have an obligation to give back. A special thanks to my mentors Pat Hammer, Grace Rising and Lillian Dean, and all the hundreds of volunteers I love working with here at BUC!



Scrip Shopping: the Sequel

Scrip has gotten off to a great start! With the help of BUC shoppers, the ROPE youth have earned over \$2300 towards their UU heritage trip to Boston in April.

Scrip is, in many ways, the perfect fundraiser because we are not asking anyone to buy anything they don't really want. Instead, we are merely asking folks to change their shopping habits. For example, one BUCer who made a single purchase of \$400 worth of Lands' End Scrip effectively gave the ROPE youth \$64! Another family, just by doing a thousand dollars of routine shopping through Scrip, has donated almost \$100.

Although some retailers pay a higher rebate than others (Land's End, LL Bean, the Gap, AMC Theatres, to name a few), any regular shopping using Scrip cards will, in the long run, bring in a substantial sum. A Speedway card, which can be reloaded electronically, pays us 4%. If a single family, spending \$40 a week on gas, were to purchase and regularly refill a Speedway card, ROPE would earn \$80 over a 50-week period. If 10 families were to do this, it would earn \$800—more than enough to send one ROPE youth to Boston. We especially love it when folks purchase Scrip using cash or checks (or online using the PrestoPay deductions) because this spares us bank card fees, but we are glad to have the support of regular credit cards users, too. Credit purchases must, however, be made in person at BUC.

And Scrip is useful for so much more than gift-giving! Haircuts, oil changes, hotel reservations (and travel agent services), home inspections, Disney and Six Flags tickets, groceries, clothing, shoes, prescriptions, and much more can all be purchased with Scrip. Some merchants offer ScripNow, which sends a gift certificate directly to the customer's email address, so there is no need to wait for a physical card. Others offer Reloadable cards that can be recharged online, again with no wait for a new card. (Note: ScripNow and reloads must be ordered directly by the customer at www.shopwithscrip.com.) For those who are nervous about online shopping, Scrip has the advantage of being very safe: No need to share credit card or bank account information. Just enter the serial number on your Scrip card or certificate and you're done!

As the ROPE families are discovering, we are just beginning to tap the potential of this program. With the continued support of the BUC community, we can make this a reliable long-term success for our youth—maybe one day moving beyond Boston to fund a mission trip or other dream program. And you can be a part of our success. Sign up for a family account at the Scrip website (using enrollment code 812A84F12914L) or stop by the Scrip table in the Social Hall beginning on January 8th for more suggestions about how to Shop with Scrip!

January's Featured Artist @ BUC: Suzanne Bauman

Suzanne Bauman has been making art since early childhood. She has worked in pencil, oil, watercolor, pastel and acrylic. Her subject matter over the years has changed from realistic portraits to abstract, still life, landscape, and finally returning to abstract, which remains the most challenging, and her favorite. Her goal in painting is to somehow touch or connect with the viewer.

She became a Registered Nurse but continued painting, taking classes at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center and other venues.

Suzanne has also completed a series of Numismatic paintings, capturing and interpreting the subject matter and vignettes featured on historical United States paper money.

She has earned numerous awards in exhibits hosted by Birmingham Society of Women Painters, the Colored Pencil Society of America, The Society of Experimental Painters, and others. Her works can be found in collections nation-wide and in Europe. Her paintings have been featured in books and publications such as *The Best of Colored Pencil*, and *Military Payment Certificates*, where one of her Numismatic paintings graces the cover.

Suzanne's Artist Reception is at BUC on Friday, January 6 from 6:00-8:00 in the Gallery and Pavilion. Suzanne may be contacted at: suebaumanartist@yahoo.com, www.suzannebauman.com, or 248.821.9126



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ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKER SERIES

- First Thursday of each month at BUC
- Free, All Welcome!

Speaker line up:

- “Tar Sands: the Tipping Point?” February 2, Fr. Charles Morris
 - “The Controversial Coyote” March 1, Holly Hadac and Bill Dodge
 - “Ah, Wilderness! The 25th Anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act”, April 5, Anne Woiwode
 - “World Without Ice”, May 3, Dr. Henry Pollack
 - “Live Raptors! What We Can Learn from Birds of Prey”, June 7, Sarah Gillmore
- Program Format

- 6:30-7:00: Light Refreshments, Meet & Greet
- 7:00-7:30: Announcements
- 7:30-8:30: Guest Speaker
- 8:30-9:00: Volunteer Sign Up, Merchandise Sales, Meet the Speaker

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg www.Facebook.com/clubSEMG Or, contact Julie Ann at jawang1@comcast.net



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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