

February 2011

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221

# The Bellnote

LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127



## STAFF

MINISTER ~ Rev. Cynthia Landrum  
Is currently on Sabbatical until 4/11/11

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ Gratia Karmes  
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## CARING COMMITTEE

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## BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Weatherwax  
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carbob@modempool.com

Nena Obits  
nena\_obits@hotmail.com



## Minister's Column

Greetings UUCEL Members & Friends,

I'm writing you, as most readers will know, from the midst of my sabbatical. At this point in January as I write, I don't have any upcoming conferences until the end of March, so it's all just time to rest, reflect, study, and write. And I'm discovering that my sabbatical has brought with it both joy and sorrow. The sorrow is because I'm very much missing the wealth of meaning and engagement that participation in our religious community brings me. Sure, I have weekends free, but after nine years in the ministry, I no longer know what to do with that time! I miss worship services and seeing you all, and doing things with you. I feel less connected to what's going on in my community as a whole because I'm not engaging with it in the role of minister or in the ways in which our religious community brings me into engagement with the world.

The blessings, on the other hand, are that I've had more time to engage with other aspects of my life – my daughter, her school, and her Girl Scout troop are some examples. I'm feeling more involved in my adjunct teaching than I usually do, and I'm teaching a little more this semester than I sometimes do – two classes instead of one.

The biggest joy to me right now that is coming from sabbatical is that I'm exploring my artistic side a bit. I usually don't have time to take an adult art course. Many are offered in the evenings and weekends, times I'm usually very busy. But as a benefit of being an adjunct instructor, I'm allowed a few free credits at JCC. I've found the time to take advantage of this benefit for the first time, and am taking a ceramics course. What a blessing this is! I've always wanted to do this, and have never felt that I had the time before. JCC even covers the materials fee as part of the adjunct agreement, so the clay and tools are free to me. I may have to do this again! I'm using the time as religious reflection, letting my pottery pieces explore religious themes and ideas. And I'm having some fun conversations about religion as a result with my classmates, some of whom have also been using religious themes in their work (and one who is making zombies – I'll have to tell her about my zombie sermon!).

The time for sabbatical is drawing shorter now, and I have the feeling that I haven't produced enough work – I've been doing too much on the resting and reflecting side. What I'm finding, however, is that the creative thinking of doing art is getting my creative juices flowing in other ways, as well. I look forward to the next two months as productive ones.

Peace,

*Cindy*

# Religious Education Report

It has been a challenging January. With the cold weather, many people have the flu and other bugs, and attendance in RE classes is down. I've been battling a sinus infection and hope this second round of antibiotics kicks it to the curb.

We got through a month with the help of both our regular volunteer cadre as well as some subs. Thank you to those who have said "yes" to my requests for help, including Nena Obits, Dee Reed, Laura Thurlow, and Nancy Smith. Hopefully the adults get as much out of teaching as the kids get out of participating! And thanks to Nena Obits for setting up the K-5 class field trip to the Jackson County Medical Care Facility on Jan. 30.

Our nursery volunteer sign-up has been pretty blank lately. In some ways we've been "lucky" that nursery attendance has been down, so we haven't needed volunteers some Sundays. I will be addressing this shortage with the Board in February, and we will likely ask from the pulpit when we are short a volunteer.

We had another great Religious Educators meeting at UUCEL in January. My guests were from the UU churches in Portage, Flint, Brighton, Southfield, and New Hudson (near South Lyon). I always get such wonderful ideas from these other RE leaders. Our topic was on the RE Committee, but we inevitably talk about "all things RE."

**"Church Buddies" is the full month of February for us.** This is a special time when adults are matched/buddied with a child and the child learns more about their match/buddy. Call or email me if you or your child(ren) wants to be involved and haven't signed up yet—you may still be able to squeeze in. We'll wrap up February with a Church Buddies Breakfast on **February 27**, see related announcement in the next column. It is also "RE Sunday" and the service will highlights from the Children's

RE Program this year. Also in February, the RE Committee will review curriculum for next year, and year-to-date expenses. We're hoping to have an all-church outing to serve a meal at the Interfaith Shelter during February or soon after—probably a Saturday lunch or dinner or a Sunday dinner, and we hope to do this on a quarterly basis. Michelle Vanover is arranging this opportunity, so let her know if you are interested in helping. We had a great time when we did this the first time, Dec 26!

Does anyone have an fairly empty deep freezer (or know of someone that does) we can use briefly if we do the Little Caesar's Pizza Kit sale again this year?

Yuurs,

*Sharon*



Religious Education Coordinator

## CHURCH BUDDIES BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 27

Serving at 9:45 a.m.

All are welcome!

Free (donations encouraged)

for RE kids, parents,

teachers and

Church Buddies!

\$5-7 for other church members and friends

Enjoy  
pancakes, eggs, sausage,  
fruit and other treats!

"Go now and live your religion.  
Its truth reflect in all you do.  
Go, may love's presence ever guide you.  
Live the good life the whole day through."  
~~ Our Closing Song~~

# Notes from the Board

The board met as usual on the first Wednesday of January. Everyone was present. Much of our discussion centered around, (no surprise), financial issues. Although we are doing pretty well considering the state of the economy, we are still very much needing SOMEONE to think of, coordinate, and successfully execute at least one more fund raiser by June 30th! We are doing the pledge campaign a little differently this year (see item by Kerry Hart for more explanation on page 4 under first Friday dinner) and hope that will also bring us closer to financial solid ground. So many generous donations of time, money, and energy have been received, it is very gratifying to the board to reflect upon them. Also, our pledges are running a little HIGH, as in, we are ahead of schedule in receiving promised money, so that is very good! Your board is confident that this same spirit will carry us through—meanwhile, let's all think of new ways to help financially, and do come shop at the used book sale!!

Respectfully Submitted by: Gratia Karmes  
Board President

## Month of February Observances

There are over two dozen monthly observances during the month, here are a few. African American History Month - AMD/ Low Vision Awareness Month - American Heart Month - Bird Feeding Month - Cat Health Month - Children's Dental Health Month/ Dental Month - Grapefruit Month - Snack Food Month - Weddings Month

Please welcome our newest member

**Lauralynn Browning**

who joined our church  
on January 16th

# Choir Corner

Many exciting things are just around the corner for the choir! Plans are being made for Nancy Cooper to teach a Reading Music class. This class will be open to all persons in the church, not just choir members.

Nancy and I have started a new adventure; we are practicing flute on Sundays after church in the sanctuary. We're looking forward to some flute duets and piano/flute combos.

Please, feel free to see Nancy with your music suggestions. She enjoys hearing feedback.

Submitted by: Lauralynn Browning  
Choir Correspondent

## ~ 11 weeks ~

With Rev. Cindy's permission; here is the count-down till she returns from her Sabbatical and back to the pulpit.  
P.S. she is counting down also.

## February Fun Facts

~ February 2004 had 5 Sundays! This is an occurrence that only happens every 28 years ... 1920, 1948, 1976, 2004, 2032, 2060, 2088.

~ Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent): The custom of dispensing ashes comes from "for dust thou art, unto dust shalt thou return." (Genesis 3:19)

~ Fastnacht: The German celebration of Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday (the last day before Lent.)

~Lent: Lent was established as 40 days in approximately 600 AD. The name comes from words meaning spring and long, referring to the 40 days until Spring.

~Mardi Gras: The French and Southern United States day of celebration on the last day before Lent.

~Pancake Tuesday (or Pancake Day) is the English version of Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday when thin, flat pancakes are cooked and eaten.

~Shrove Tuesday: The name comes from the custom of making confessions and receiving forgiveness on the last day before Lent which was known as being shriven.

# Meetings and Events

## U.U. Church of East Liberty

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### February First Friday Dinner

Your February First Friday Dinner is hosted by the Board of Trustees. Please join the board on **February 4** at 6:30 pm to dine on soups, salads, bread, and desserts. We're grateful to Tom Pepper and David Brenner for providing the gift of their musical talents. As always, your free-will offering will be graciously accepted.

The board will use this opportunity to feed and entertain you in hopes that you'll share your 2011-2012 pledge with us. We ask for your pledge this time of year so we can prepare a budget to present at May's annual meeting. If you're unable to attend the dinner or provide your pledge information, the board will offer additional opportunities during the next few weeks.

Thank you in advance for considering your financial contribution to the church's next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2011.

Submitted by: Kerry Hart

### JXN Community Forums

...are free and open programs to facilitate dialogue about the challenging issues of our time. Forums are usually held at the Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch, located at 244 W. Michigan Ave. between Blackstone & N. Jackson Street. Forums are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. The Forum's are co-sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty (UUCEL) and the Jackson District Library (JDL).

**Thursday, February 17th** at 6:30 p.m.

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA REVISITED:

#### Grassroots Medicine

The Michigan Medical Marijuana Act: The citizens have spoken. Roger Maufort of the Jackson County Compassion Club, Attorney Robert Gaecke, and others will discuss Michigan's experience following the overwhelming passage of Proposition 1 in 2008. Hear about medical marijuana patients' continued struggle to exercise their rights to use this alternative medicine.

Childcare may be available for a modest donation; call 817-0940 to RSVP for childcare. Call 517-788-4087 for more information, or see the Library's website at [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com)

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

### Many Ways to Help UUCEL Book Sale Succeed



IN preparation for the UUCEL Book Sale on **February 18 and 19, 2011**, we will be having **two work days**. We will be sorting books and getting the sale ready in the school house on **February 5, and February 12, from 9-12**. Donuts and coffee will be provided.

Further help will be needed for the book sale in the form of people working shifts on **February 18 & February 19** from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. We would also like to combine this with a baked goods sale, so anyone interested in bringing baked goods would be appreciated. People can also donate books. We are looking for interesting and saleable books in both fiction and nonfiction. We will be taking donations until the Sunday before the sale - February 13th. Congregants are also encouraged to come and buy books.

If you are interested in working, donating, or baking please contact Jon Hart.

Submitted by : Jon Hart

Editors note: A flyer of all details was e-mailed to some of you. I had less items submitted this month than usual, so on the top of page 6 you can also see the book sale flyer information.

If you can cut it out and or print it off, and post somewhere to help advertise the sale that would be very helpful, thank you.



## First Friday Dinners

### Mexican Dinner

The next First Friday dinner planned will be **Friday, March 4th**. It will be hosted by Fred & Debbie Marshall with a Mexican dinner with music and possible dancing for your entertainment. This dinner will be starting at 6:00 pm come and enjoy.

Submitted by: Fred & Debbie Marshall

The board members are looking for other committees, groups and or individuals would like to host the 1st Friday Dinners. We'd like to have one every month since the dinners are an important part of our fundraising. Information can be given to the editors to print in the newsletter and/or by making an announcement on Sunday morning.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

### Board Game - Fun Night

It has been requested that we have a few more board game nights. So mark your calendar for the 3rd Friday of the next two months. The fun will start at 6:30 pm on both **February 18** and **March 18**. Bring a game or two and a snack to share. If you are not a game person come anyway, you can read a magazine or play cards. Come and join the fun and company of your church friends. See you there!

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

### All Committee Night Meeting

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month through April. Outreach at 5:00, Worship 5:30 and RE 6:30 pm and all other committees are welcome to join in as well. Take part at the downtown library in the auditorium. This is for better communication about all church upcoming events. The next meeting is **Wednesday, February 9th**.

## District & Denominational Meetings and Events

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### Heartland District Assembly

Please join us in April at the 11th Annual Heartland District Assembly. Come celebrate being a UU in the Heartland. We are honored to have Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, as our featured keynote speaker. In her keynote address titled *"2061 The Next Fifty Years"*, Gini will help us explore the issue of leadership ~ where we've been over the past 50 years of our UUA, and where we are going and need to be for the next 50 years. This will be an inter-active keynote offering times to reflect, respond and renew our understandings of leadership.

District Assembly is the time we come together to learn from each other, join together in worship, and renew our commitment and understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. It is also the time we come together to conduct the business of the District.

Where: Horizon Convention Center  
401 South High Street  
Muncie, IN 47308

When: **Friday April 1, 2011** 5:00 pm  
- **Sunday April 3, 2011** 12:00 pm

Questions? Contact the District Office at:  
office@heartlanduu.org

### Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's next meeting is **February 20** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty  
Winter Book Sale  
Universalist Unitarian Church @ the Old School House  
2231 Jefferson Road



February 18-19, 2011

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**\*Book dealers welcome the second day\***

Come browse our large selection of used books over wide categories: non-fiction (history, philosophy, religion, sports, biography, etc.) fiction (all genres), and coffee table books in paperback, trade paperback, and hard cover. Prices are as follows:

Paperbacks \$.50      Trade paperbacks \$1      Hardcover \$2      Coffee table books \$3

Children/youth books \$.25      A variety of baked goods and coffee for sale

For directions or more information about the church visit : [www.uuliberty.org](http://www.uuliberty.org)

**We Welcome Your Membership** Not a member? We'd love to have you join our spiritual community. New members signify their commitment by signing the Membership Book during a scheduled church service. It is understood that members actively support their congregation through attendance, service and financial commitment. To start your process of becoming an official member of our lively, compassionate and challenging congregation, speak with Rev. Cindy Landrum, (517) 529-4221, or a member of the membership committee, including Kathy Haynes, Joan Bernstein, Jann Krupa, and Carole Hartsuff.



**FROM THE EDITOR:**

"THE BELLNOTE" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF UUCEL. IF THIS IS YOUR 1ST COPY OF THE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER, WELCOME. OUR CHURCH YEAR RUNS FROM JULY 1-JUNE 30. THE CHURCH BOARD ASKS THOSE THAT RECEIVE THE PAPER VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER TO PAY A \$17.00 PER-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FEE. NEW VISITORS WILL GET 3 MONTHS FREE, AFTER THAT A SUBSCRIPTION FEE WILL BE ASKED FOR, OR CHANGE TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS FREE OF CHARGE.

THE MARCH ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:  
UUCEL\_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING

TO KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

**We want to thank;** Lauralynn Browning, Jon Hart, Kerry Hart, Gratia Karmes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Fred & Debbie Marshall, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm. & Membership Comm. **for their news items this month.**

**OUR 7 PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES**

**WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:**

- ~ THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON
- ~ JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS
- ~ ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS
- ~ A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING
- ~ THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE
- ~ THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL
- ~ RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART

# The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

## February

**This is Church Buddies Month -Adults and Children are matched/buddied up to learn about each other.**

2 Wed.	Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
3 Thurs.	AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
4 Fri.	1st Friday Dinner ~ Hosted by: Board of Trustees ~ 6:30 pm
5 Sat.	Book sale workday 9:00 am -12:00 pm - In the schoolhouse
6 Sunday	~~~~ Service - Guest Minister - Rev Jill Terwilliger ~ 11:00 am
8 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
9 Wed.	All Committee Night Meeting @ Downtown Library Auditorium - through April Outreach 5:00 pm - Worship 5:30 pm - RE 6:30 pm, other comm. welcome
10 Thurs.	Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
12 Sat.	Book sale workday 9:00 am -12:00 pm In the schoolhouse
13 Sunday	~~~~ Service - Guest Speaker - Lois DeMott ~ 11:00 am
17 Thurs.	JXN Community Forums MEDICAL MARIJUANA REVISITED: Grassroots Medicine @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
18 Fri.	Book Sale, Baked Goods and Coffee Sale ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
18 Fri.	Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
18 Fri.	Board Game Night ~ 6:30 pm (Requested to have again)
19 Sat.	Book Sale, Baked Goods and Coffee Sale ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
20 Sunday	~~~~ Service - Guest Minister - Rev. Leonetta Bugliesi ~ 11:00 am
20 Sunday	Caring Committee ~ After the Service
27 Sunday	~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Sharon Pedersen ~ 11:00 am

## Upcoming Events

March 4	1st Friday Dinner hosted by: Fred and Debbie Marshall
March 15 & 17	Brooklyn Food Pantry, Our Work Day- Need 1 or 2 Helpers
March 18	Board Game Night 6:30 pm (Request to have again)

## WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 20	Feb. 27
<b>Greeters</b>	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
<b>R.E. Greeter</b>	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
<b>Nursery Helper</b>	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed
<b>Ushers</b>	Gary T Needed	Gary T Needed	Gary T Needed	Gary T Needed
<b>Social H. Host</b>	Lori B	Jane V Alyce O	Donna H Kathy H	Kerry H Jon H
<b>R.E. Pre.</b>	Jane Jackie		Sharon Becky	
<b>R.E. K-5</b>	Anne Sharon	Kerry Dee	Jon Rob	Intergenerational
<b>R.E. Youth</b>	Gretchen Alyce	Chris Lori	Steve Laura	Intergenerational

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am ~ Celebrating Over 150 Years of Liberal Religion

**Feb. 6 - "To Be Announced"**  
Guest Minister - Rev. Jill Terwilliger

**Feb. 13 - "When You Love A Prisoner"**  
Guest Speaker - Lois DeMott  
Lois will share her journey of raising a mentally ill child, his entanglement in the legal system, and entering the adult prison at 15. She will convey experiences of heartache, growth and the desire to bring change for the mentally ill throughout Michigan...

**Feb. 20 - "Preliminary and Secondary Lessons of Grief"**  
Guest Minister - Rev. Leonetta Bugliesi  
The Rev. Bugliesi will speak about how the process of grief can be both cathartic and transitional in our lives.

**Feb. 27 - "RE Sunday"**  
UUCEL/Lay Leader - Sharon Pedersen  
Highlights from the Children's RE Program this year.

Where people care about each other and care about the world.  
<http://www.libertyu.org/newsletter.html>  
[www.libertyu.org](http://www.libertyu.org)

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty  
2231 Jefferson Road  
Clarklake, MI 49234  
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