

February 2012

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

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Minister's day off
Tuesday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday: Sermon-writing day,
no office hours
Saturday: By appointment
Sunday: By appointment

STAFF

MINISTER ~ Rev. Cynthia Landrum
revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu

R. E. COORDINATOR ~ Sharon Pedersen
sspedersen@sbcglobal.net

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ JANE VOLK
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Joyce Weatherwax
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Nena Obits
nena_obits@hotmail.com



Minister's Column

Given how long it took before this winter seemed to get underway, I don't even need to hear if the groundhog saw his shadow to know the results. I think our winter is only beginning. And our board has discussed many winter-related proposals about the church budget, from moving all winter meetings off site to holding church downstairs in the winter or closing church in the coldest time periods. We haven't resorted to any of these, but the cold months bring increased fuel costs not only to our church building but to our church families, and this is going to be a tough winter, despite how warm it was in December and early January. When we're stressed financially at church or at home, it can be hard to see beyond that stress. I've heard families say things like, "I'm just so busy that I feel like I don't have time for church now." Of course, I'm obviously biased, but I know when I'm busiest and most stressed, that's when I most need church, or something like it, in my life. When I'm stressed and have no time, that's when I need to take time for spiritual practice — meditation, singing, journaling, yoga, or whatever it may be. If you're finding yourself stressed and strapped this winter, come join us and sing or pray or laugh until your heart feels whole and free again.

Another thing that feeds my soul is our mission and vision in the larger community. In February we're in the time of the Season for Nonviolence and African-American History month, and also the time of year that's been newly connected to the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love campaign. It's a great time to get energized in social mission activities. If you're interested in taking action, I invite you to check out some of the resources at <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/> or <http://www.uusc.org> or <http://www.uua.org/action/index.shtml>. Our Social Mission committee dwindled as our JXN Community Forum got stronger, but I'd be happy to work with members on energizing the congregation around specific action items if you have a vision you want to share.

With Peace and Love,

Cindy

Religious Education

Report

Time marches on...faster and faster it seems, after the New Year started.

At our January Religious Education committee meeting, I heard good things about Santa's Workshop and Gifts for Kids, two December programs. Sounds like the Santa's Workshop day was a lot of fun, with crafts like foam art (thanks Michelle!), frosting cookies (Vicki), orange pomanders and pine cones (Dee and Gretchen), and Marina demonstrating an ornament- sewing craft.

The RE Committee has been charged with identifying monthly social action opportunities for families, and quarterly social opportunities. In January we will donate change provided by kids and their families to Heifer International. In February we'll encourage UUCEL families to purchase valentine gifts through Equal Exchange, and we'll see if we can pick a date to visit the fair trade shops in Chelsea together, to learn more about fair trade at work in two retail stores there. We'll announce the date soon!

Another tradition takes place every February. We'll ask those who would like to be "Church Buddies" to fill in forms to exchange information on themselves. This one will be "double blind," where we pair adults and children without letting either know the name of their "church buddy." Children will write notes and provide home-made gifts, while adults buy inexpensive gifts of \$0-5 weekly and a final gift worth \$5-10. This year we will run Church Buddies from the 2nd weekend in February through the first weekend in March, the day of the Church Buddies breakfast and the "RE Sunday," where we give the church a sense of what the K-5class is learning. (The youth class is often featured nearer the end of the school year.)

Please fill out the enclosed form (see page 5) if you'd like to be a church buddy. Thanks for your interest!

Sincerely yUUs, in Religious Education,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

Notes from the Board

The Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of our Music Director, Nancy Cooper. As director, she both played the piano and directed the choir, and her leadership will be missed. I will be collecting donations toward a retirement perk, so please see me regarding this.

We are very pleased that Tom Pepper is willing to be our interim pianist through May. By then the Board will have decided upon a permanent pianist or pianist/choir director. We would like to hear thoughts from the congregation regarding our music program.

By the time that you read this, we will have selected THE piano for our church. Several of our members have been intensely involved in this process, and Board wishes to thank all of you for your dedication and effort. At times it may seem that the democratic process is a lengthy one; however, it is a fair process and one in which we, as UU's, strongly believe.

Our Grandmother's Attic Sale co-chairs of many years, Joan Bernstein and Dorothy Kerr have resigned, so we are needing to find their replacements. We are very grateful to both Joan and Dorothy for their willingness to be in charge of our successful yearly sale. This is one of our top three money makers, so we are hoping that someone will volunteer to be in charge for this year. Please contact one of the Board members if you are interested.

Steve Beison has agreed to chair our annual pledge drive and would appreciate volunteers to assist him in this very important activity. He also may be calling upon members for help, so please consider doing so.

Jon Hart is in charge of our annual Book Sale which will be March 2nd and 3rd. If you've not signed up to help, please do so. This is the time to check your home library to see which books you want to offer for our sale.

Thanks to the AUUW for hosting our potluck on Piano Concert night. Excellent home-made food and great music with our UU friends made for an entertaining evening! The next Board meeting is February 1st at the church.

Jane Volk Board of Trustees President

District & Denominational Meetings and Events



Heartland District Assembly 2012
March 30-31, 2012
Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed

"Torn Between Fuzzy Aspirations and Hard Realities".... This year we are pleased and honored to present the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed as our keynoter for our District Assembly March 31-April 1st. Mark writes this about his keynote:

There is a surprising, and painful, truth behind Unitarian Universalist efforts to become more racially and culturally diverse. This truth must begin with taking an honest look at who we are and why we are who we are, and it ends in a conundrum but not without hope. If UUs really want to change, accepting the truth is the only place to start. Torn between our reality and our aspirations what are we do do? This presentation considers why achieving diversity is challenging, but also talks about which congregations became successfully diverse and how.

Mark's presentation will be part of our look at what it means to be UUs committed to living in a world transformed, multi-cultural, multi-generational, multi-racial, and many other multi's. Our weekend together should be the perfect lead in to this year's Justice General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, in June. We hope to have a workshop based on the UUA's "Common Read" for 2012, and have time to discuss immigration issues that arise here in our Heartland.

What is District Assembly?

Each year, in early April, 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. Our keynote speaker brings a message to inspire and rejuvenate all who attend. Other UU leaders and educators will present a variety of educational opportunities in the form of workshops and focus groups. Delegates from congregations vote on matters important to the District.

Registration now open. Register online at

http://www.heartlanduu.org/Annual_Meeting_Pages/assembly_home.html

What I'm Reading:

Finished reading *The Death of Josseline* and wondering what to read next? Thanks to the recommendation in Leonard Pitt's column, I'm planning on starting *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. Leonard Pitts is giving away 50 free copies to people who send him e-mails, but if I don't get one of the signed copies he's giving away, I'm still planning on reading it and hopefully preaching about it later in the spring. Join me, and maybe we'll have a chance to discuss it.

— Rev. Cindy



UU Phone App!

Want to light a chalice on your iPhone or Android? The Church of the Larger Fellowship has the app! Look for "Quest for Meaning CLF" in your app store or check out <http://www.appbrain.com/app/quest-for-meaning-clf/com.appmakr.app216332>.

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Book Sale Coming Soon



Book sale at the church will be soon, so start sorting out your books for the sale. Please contact Jon Hart who will be chairing this event if you would like to help with the sale or have any book questions. Many bakers will also be needed to bring in the baked good items. Please help in any way you can, thanks. U U Church of East Liberty Winter Book Sale This will be held in the Old School House next to the church **Friday and Saturday March 2-3.**

From 9:00 am -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 will be; Paperbacks \$.50 -- Trade paperbacks \$1 -- Hardcover \$2 -- Coffee table books \$3 -- Children/youth books \$.25 -- A variety of baked goods and coffee will also be on sale,
For directions or more information about the church, visit: www.uuliberty.org

Submitted by Jon Hart

Volunteer Schedule

Please see the bottom of page 7. The Volunteer Schedule is very blank this month, and your help is needed. Please see what you can do. The sign-up clipboards are on the bulletin board in the social hall awaiting your name. Thanks

JXN Community Forums

..are free and open programs to encourage dialogue about the challenging issues of our day. The series is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the Jackson District Library. All forums are held at the JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI and they are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. Childcare may be available for a modest donation: (See Supplements Page for contact information) to RSVP for childcare. Call Debby Sears at the library at 517-788-4087 ext. 234 for more information or see the JDL website at www.myjdl.com...

Thursday, Feb. 16

"Where Soldiers Come From"

February's JXN Community Forum will be a screening of the documentary **"Where Soldiers Come From."**

This is an apolitical documentary about a close knit group of young men growing up and coming of age in a small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The film focuses primarily on three young men who join the Michigan National Guard. It covers their deployment to Afghanistan and follows them when they return home and try to adjust back to civilian life. This film was aired nationally on PBS in a POV documentary series last November of 2011.

For this Forum we suggest that attendees donate items for care packages that will be sent to deployed soldiers.

6:30 pm, Jackson District Library
Carnegie Branch, Sergeant Auditorium
Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Caring Committee

The following is a list of Caring Committee members, please contact them as your needs arise: ~ Alyce Oosting, chair-person,
Nena Obits, Gretchen Marshall,
Jane Volk, Martha Koopman,
Jann Krupa, Peg Gordon, Mindy Radseck
This is a short explanation of what our committee does: We support and meet the needs of our church community by doing such things as; - driving people to appointments - delivering meals - making phone calls - friendly visits - listening - sending out cards. The next Caring Committee meeting will be **February 19** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Please: Remove/Print Off this Page, Make a Copy if Needed 1 Page Per Child/Adult
and Return to Sharon Pedersen A.S.A.P. to Take Part in our
Annual Church Buddies Month of Fun. February 12 through March 4.

Church Buddies 2012 -

(Witty or tricky answers encouraged!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____

Age/Grade _____

My Favorites:

Color _____

Food _____

Animal _____

School Subject _____

Toy or book _____

Other _____

I have these pets: _____

My hobbies and interests are: _____

If I had one wish it would be: _____

Please return to Sharon Pedersen asap!

Contact Information Updates

We are looking to update our mailing list, telephone calling tree and computer e-mail contact list. There is a clipboard in the social hall with a printed out listing of all names as we have them. Would you please look at your line of information and make all corrections to it and add your cell phone number (if you have one) on the blank end of the sheet. You could also send an e-mail to uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com if your information has changed and you would like the church to have your updated information. Also please indicate if you would like your home or cell phone number on the UUCEL calling tree; just looking for the best way to get in touch with you, if we need to. In the spring of 2012 we will be having a new Church Directory made from the Life Touch Company and having this information now will be very helpful. – Thanks
Submitted by Kathy Haynes

BIBLICAL SONGS

- SAMSON: "Hair" PETER: "I'm Sorry"
- JEZEBEL: "The Lady is a Tramp"
- JOSHUA: "Good Vibrations"
- NOAH: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"
- ADAM AND EVE: "Strangers in Paradise"
- LAZARUS: "The Second Time Around"
- JOB: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"
- SALOME: "I Could Have Danced All Night"
- DANIEL: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
- ESAU: "Born To Be Wild" MOSES: "The Wanderer"
- THE THREE KINGS: "When You Wish Upon a Star"
- JONAH: "Got a Whale of a Tale"
- ELIJAH: "Up UP and Away"
- ESTHER: "I Feel Pretty" METHUSELAH: "Stayin' Alive"
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR: "Crazy"
- SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO: "Great Balls of Fire!"

Author Unknown
Submitted by: Sharon Myers

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• Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org	•
• The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html	•
• Church e-mail	EastLibertyUU@yahoo.com	•
• Church's facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu	•
• Forum facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum	•
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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/or 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 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 19 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

We want to thank; Jon Hart, Kathy Haynes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Myers, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Jane Volk, Caring Comm., Outreach Comm. and 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

- 1 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm at the church
- 2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
- 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Peg Beison Lay Leader ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting. ~ Downtown Library ~ 5:30 pm
- 9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 9 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 pm
- 12 Sunday Church Buddies through March 4th
- 12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 16 Thurs. JXN Forums "Where Soldiers Come From"
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
- 19 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
- 19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 19 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
- 21 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ 2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company
- 26 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

- March 2 Book Sale in the schoolhouse ~ 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- March 3 Book Sale in the schoolhouse ~ 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- March 4 Church Buddies Breakfast

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	-	-	-	-
Ushers	Gratia K Becky B	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -
Social H. Host	-	-	-	-
R.E. Pre.				
R.E. K-5	Intergenerational	To Be Announced		
R.E. Youth				

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

Feb 5 - "On Certainty and Uncertainty"

- Lay Leader, Peg Beison

Peg will explore what neuroscience tells us about the way humans arrive at a feeling of certainty, and she will challenge us to see the value in uncertainty.

Feb 12 - "Standing on the Side of Love"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

For Valentine's Day we'll catch up with what the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign has been doing and turn our thoughts again to living our religion and being guided by love's presence.

Feb 19 - "Growing the Church Universal"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This Sunday we'll look at membership and growth issues through the framework of being a visitor-oriented church.

Feb 26 - "Hope & Change"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our hymn says, "Don't be afraid of some change," yet we often are. This Sunday we'll look at the relationship between finding hope and the possibility of change.

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

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234
2231 Jefferson Road

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty



