The Bellnote

March 2010

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty 2231 Jefferson Road, Clarklake, MI 49234 (517) 529-4221 LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127

Number 3 Volume 230

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Her day off Tuesday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Wednesday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday: Sermon-writing day Saturday: By appointment Sunday: By appointment Cindy works mostly from her home office

STAFF

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

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

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Nena Obits



Minister's Column

March is the month that Jackson County has its "Big Read," and our church often joins in with events. The Big Read is a community-wide program sponsored by the Jackson District Library and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts where the community is invited to read one book, this year Ursula K. LeGuin's A Wizard of Earthsea. Our church, as we have done most years, is holding a forum on the Big Read, as well as a worship service and book discussion. As someone who loves fantasy and science fiction, I was excited about this year's book, one I had read and enjoyed before. I've previously done sermons on such subjects as Harry Potter, Star Wars, and The Golden Compass. One interesting aspect of LeGuin's novel is that she draws not from the usual European mythology to set her fantasy kingdom, but instead sets it in a Polynesian-inspired fantasy archipelago, and immerses it in the principles of Taoism. I'm looking forward to the challenge of preaching on this unique fantasy work. But for those who don't enjoy fantasy as much as I do, there is also our "First Friday Dinner," the continuation of our "Sources" series in worship, and the continuation of our food drive for the Brooklyn Food Pantry.

March also kicks off our pledge drive, which can provide opportunities for newcomers to learn about our organization and mission. We'll be having a kick-off event during social hour on March 14th, which will be a great opportunity to hear more about our vision for the upcoming year, and to share your vision for the church. Our theme this year is "Grounded in Love." Each board member, when we came up with this theme, had a different image of what this meant to them. Personally, it reminds me of our closing song which says, "Go, may love's presence ever guide you..." I was recently struck by the importance of love in our closing song. Our former minister Ruth Smith told me that she had found this verse in a denominational publication and she changed the word "God" to "love." And what a difference love makes! Holding Love out as our guiding principle, that which leads us in all our actions, is a wonderful mission for our church. It grounds us in our faith.



Religious Education Report

February is a favorite month in RE, what with "Church Buddies" and Valentine's Day and the like. Attendance has still been strong, and kids have enjoyed the "Wonderful Welcome" curriculum. The youth have learned a lot about Islam in their class, with help from a good video and excellent, resourceful teachers. On Feb. 28 they have a speaker scheduled who is a part of the Muslim community—and just back from doing medical work in Haiti.

An unofficial rule is now official – WALK, PLEASE, ON THE RAMP! This is posted at the bottom of the ramp, so parents, please help reinforce this with children, for safety's sake, and so we can all hear better in the social hall. Also, a reminder to kids not to run in the parking lot – also for safety.

Thanks to Steve Kish for donating the television and VCR. The TV is set up in the social hall now has a great picture for showing DVDs and videos, for instance. Thanks also to Paul Jenkins and others for setting the new TV up.

Watch for the RE fundraiser in March – and please support it, as you are able. I hope many of you will take the sales forms to work, friends and neighbors also, to help support the RE program.

I will be out of town for the March 14 service. Our RE Greeter that day will be Michelle Vanover.

RE Sunday is March 28. At this service, the K-5 class will share what it has been learning this year, and I think you'll like what you see. Youth will share more about their curricula at the end of the RE "school year."

We thank you for your support of the religious education program.

IUUv,

Sharon (19)
Religious Education Coordinator

Notes from the Board

The Board of Trustees generally meets monthly on the first Wednesday. During our last meeting we discussed parking lot conditions in winter months. We are all concerned with the safety and well-being of our members and visitors. More than a few of us have fallen or had close calls on the packed snow and accumulated ice. While we try to keep steps and doorways clean, the gravel lot does present a challenge. The board is actively considering longer-term options to improve conditions, including regrading and/or paving. In the meantime, we ask members and visitors to seek assistance when needed. We are grateful that so many of you have offered to give others a hand.

I also wanted to thank all the members and friends who supported the holiday fundraisers by purchasing wreaths and greeting cards. The church succeeded in earning about \$550, which was more than the board had anticipated. If you see Grace Mulnix, be sure to let her know how much you liked her daughter's church photograph on the greeting card. We mistakenly identified the photographer, so we express our gratitude for the donation of the picture during a prior auction, which we copied for the cards' production.

Lastly, keep this date: March 14, 2010. You are invited to the annual kick-off for the pledge campaign. We'll have a brief presentation and hands-on activity during social hour that afternoon. This year's theme, "Grounded in Love", reminds us how our connections to this religious community ground us spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. We will not ask you to make a pledge during the kick-off. Rather, your canvasser will contact you shortly after that day to accept your pledge. Please respond to him or her by March 28 so the board can prepare the next fiscal year's budget in time for the annual meeting this spring.

Respectfully submitted by; Kerry Hart, Treasurer

Letter from the Editors

Starting with the March issue the Bellnote Newsletter will have a new look! Instead of creating two
Bellnotes, one that is on our webpage and is public, and one with more personal information that goes to our members, we will be creating one public newsletter. Subscribers to

creating one public newsletter. Subscribers to the Bellnote will receive a Bellnote Supplement with the birthdays, anniversaries, joys & sorrows, and any additional phone numbers & email addresses that go with some articles.

An email will be sent to the on-line readers with the supplement information. The paper copy readers will be getting an extra "supplement page" with that information. Please remember that our newsletter is a public document and, when you submit an article, please indicate if any phone numbers or e-mails in it should be removed from the public newsletter. If so, the phone numbers and e-mails will be added to the supplement page with reference to page # and title of article.

We also make a new "Bellnote News in Brief." This month's issue will be our seventh; it is a double-sided one-page newsletter. It is used for the CommUnity ForUms, visitor packets, and other U.U. ministers who subscribe, and a few extra copies are left at the church. Thanks for reading from the Editors, and Yes, it will be much easier than what we have been doing in the past, and the church web page version will have a better over-all look to it!

Submitted by: Kathy & Vicki Haynes



Sabbatical Information

UU ministers stay an average of eight years in any given congregation. The average tenure of ministers in our congregation since 1876 has been 4.7, and the average since 1961, including both Ruth Smith's 20-year tenure and our interim ministers, has been 4.6 years. In fact, in the short time I've been a member here, we've had four ministers! I don't know the reasons for this. Perhaps it's burnout, with the responsibilities of preaching, pastoral care for the congregation, managing church administration, fulfilling commitments to our district and the UUA, as well as being our spokesperson in the community. I was shocked to find that in her five and a half years with us, the Rev. Cindy has written over 170 different sermons! That's a lot of writing!

We are blessed in our congregation that the Rev. Cindy is committed to staying with us beyond the five and a half years she has been here. The sabbatical allows her relief from her regular duties and time for spiritual renewal so she can return to us with fresh perspective and energy. It is a small price to pay for the benefits we will reap.

Submitted by: Ann Green for the Sabbatical Committee

Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraising Program

Some information about the products:

~ We will be getting about \$7.00 back per item sold ~ This will be a pre-pay orders only

~ Our goal is to sell 100 items — Sharon Pedersen will have the order cards to pass out on Sunday Feb. 28 — Take orders now; turn in on **Sunday March 14** - with phone calls to Sharon by Thursday 18 at 9:00 pm at the latest (and the money to her by Sunday the 21st). The orders will be placed on the 19th – the products will be delivered to K. Haynes's "Green House" freezer on **Wednesday, March 24** at 3:30 with plans of those ordering to pick up at the S. Jackson Road addresses around 5:30 pm. Those order-takers who cannot make the pick-up time, the product will be there for you to get on Sunday 28.

A few items on the order cards are: 24 Steak & Cheese Mini Calzones

Pepperoni Pizza Kits, Crusts in wheat or thin Baby Pan and Deep Dish

neat or thin Bread sticks

Apple & Cherry Pie kits, 2 per kit

Cookie dough: 4 different kinds, each makes 60 cookies

And more.....

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen, 3~

Meetings and Events U.U. Church of East Liberty

First Friday Dinner Information Venison Chili

Join us on **March 5** for the first Friday. It will be a Venison Chili dinner. Hosted by George and Kathy Haynes, serving at 6:30 pm. You will be served a tossed salad, mild venison chili that you can season to your taste/crackers, bread, brownies, lemonade/coffee. There will also be a vegetarian lasagne/vegetarian chili upon request. Please sign up in the social hall of the number attending. Come to this fun fundraiser dinners for a good time & good food.

Submitted by: George & Kathy Haynes

Cook-Off

April's First Friday dinner is the second annual UUCEL Cook-Off! Brush off your cook's caps and make your finest dishes! Categories for this year's competition, in addition to many of last year's categories, will include Best Gluten-Free Dish, Best Kid-Friendly Dish, and, of course, Best Jell-O! Sign up for which categories you'd like to enter in as soon as possible, since space in each category is limited. You can sign up on the sheet in the social hall or by emailing Chris. Last year's event was a lot of fun and a great success. Let's make this year's even better!

Submitted by: Chris Keith

Remember to bring your money, all these dinners are a fun fundraiser with 100% going to the church. Still looking for ideas and host/hostess for upcomming months.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

Jackson Rose Parade

"f you would be interested in helping put together a church float please let Chris Keith know." The parade is **Sunday**, **June 6** with a theme of "Fun N Games." Also we would like to have a raft entry for the Clarklake Raft-O-Rama on **August 1**, anyone wanting to helping with the church entry please contact Chris.

Submitted by: Chris Keith

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 sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

Thursday, March 18

"Why Fantasy Literature is Good for Children (and Adults Too)!" Steve Vander Ark will lead a discussion of fantasy literature as part of March's "Big Read" focus on Ursula LeGuin's A Wizard of Earthsea. Books like A Wizard of Earthsea and the Harry Potter Series often come under attack because of their inclusion of magic and wizardry. The Community Forum will address some of these issues as well as the positive effects of reading fantasy literature on children and adults, such as imagination and insight.

Mr. Vander Ark is a public speaker on works of fantasy and the author of The Lexicon and In Search of Harry Potter, and creator and editor of the "Harry Potter Lexicon" website. Vander Ark has been interviewed by the Today Show, A&E, the BBC, the New Yorker and the Guardian. A former school media specialist living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Vander Ark has been honored by fans of the series who appreciate his insights into the Potter books. The Association for Library Services for Children, a division of the American Library Association, has named the Lexicon website one of 15 "Great Web Sites For Kids."

Thursday, April 15, CommUnity ForUm the topice will be on "Going Native"
Does your backyard have what it takes to attract birds, butterflies, and more? Learn the benefits of native plants in our landscape from naturalist Gary Siegrist of The Dahlem
Conservancy. At least 5000 alien plant species have been introduced to the United States, either intentionally or by accident. Explore with Gary why it is so important to incorporate native alternatives into our yards and landscapes.

Submitted by: Jann Krupa and the Outreach Committee

Standing on the Side of Love

The "Standing on the Side of Love" banner which I ordered from the SSL (pronounced "sizzle") campaign has arrived, and we'll try to find a time to display it at church soon for you to see. The banner can be used for parades (either for marching with or on a float), hanging on the building inside or out, displaying at events like picnics or anywhere we have a booth for our church. Our board has voted to accept the donation of this banner and we will be discussing and voting on how to best display it at our annual meeting.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's next meeting is **March 21** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Give food for Lent

Can you help support the Brooklyn Food Pantry during the Lent season? Can you bring in <u>canned goods</u>? The church will be collecting non-perishable food items from February 14th Sunday before the start of Lent on the Ash Wednesday the 17ththrough March 28th, the Sunday before Easter.

Can you help out in some way?
Brooklyn Food Pantry is at 171 Wamplers Lake
Road in Brooklyn and is an organization that
the church has voted to help support under
our Social Mission policy. We help staff the
pantry on our assigned workday about 6
times a year. Yes, you Can! Please help—
bring what you Can! Please put the nonperishable food items in the box under the
table by the nursery door. The pantry is open
every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am
to 2:00 pm to fill the orders of those in need of
food and restock the shelves, Thank you.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.



Jackson County Big Read

Ursula K. LeGuin's A Wizard of Earthsea ~ **Program Highlights** for a complete program, see http://www.myjdl.com, or pick up list of

events at a library branch.

- ~ Saturday, March 6, Sword and Sorcerer's Big Read Film Festival, Michigan Theater, 124 N. Mechanic, 12:00 7:00 pm Three family friendly films: Eragon (PG) at 1:00p.m., Conan the Destroyer (PG) at 3:00 pm, and Hellboy (PG 13) at 5:00 pm Demonstrations of gaming options. Coupons for a free pop and popcorn for first 300 attendees. No charge for admission.
- ~ Sunday, March 7, "The Explorers of Polynesia" Peter F. Hurst Planetarium, 3328 Oakwood, 3:00 pm Free showing of *The Explorers of Polynesia*. Seating is limited to the first 70 participants.
- ~ Saturday, March 13, Magic: The Gathering® Tournament, Club 789, 789 Woodworth Rd., 11:30 am 3:30 p.m. This is a standard DCI-sanctioned tournament. Registration begins at 11:30 and the tournament begins at noon. Admission is free.
- ~ Thursday, March 18 UUCEL/JDL Community Forum (see page 4 for details).
- ~ Sunday, March 21, UUCEL Worship Service followed by Book Discussion (see page 8 for details).
- ~ Tuesday, March 23, A Wizard of Earthsea Panel Discussion, Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch 244 W. Michigan Ave., 6:00 8:00 pm Audience members are invited to join in as a team of community members examines A Wizard of Earthsea from a variety of perspectives including educational, spiritual, creative and others.
- ~ Friday, March 26, Wizard's Ball, Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch 244 W. Michigan Ave., 6:30 9:00 pm Join us as we turn the Library into the land of Earthsea with food, games, music, and a costume contest. Fun for the whole family!

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

Spring Conference

The next 2 pages are about the UUA Spring Conference in Ann Arbor in April. It will be a long time before it will be this close to us again. The attached registration form is 5 pages in length; the full version is on the bulletin board in the social hall. Please make a copy as needed and return for others. The full form will also be online at www.heartlanduu.org for more details and registration for you too, thanks.

Church Auction Make May Day A Hay Day

Saturday, May 1, is the date for our annual church auction. This event is one of our major fundraisers for the year. Dozens of goods and services will be up for bid so highlight that date on your calendar. If you would like to offer something for the auction, a sample of items offered from past years will be listed in the April Bellnote. Submitted by: Steve Beison

Meetings and Events
not directly affiliated with UUCEL

Fallen Heroes Memorial Concert

Vigilant Music presents: Fallen Heroes Memorial Concert Fund Raiser & Celebration with local artist Kelly Trudell & Her Nashville Band Along with special guest artists: The Ben Daniels Band & Tim Styles. This is for anyone connected to a U.S. Soldier in any way: Active Duty, Veteran, or a Fallen Soldier. Honoring: Spc. D. J. Wheeler, LCPL Brent "Bayou" Beeler, Sgt. Matthew Soper, & Sr. A. Jason Plite. Saturday, March 6 - 7:00 p.m. J.C.C. Potter Center - \$25.00 per person. Over \$10,000 has been raised to date towards \$20,000 for 2 City and County Park memorials in Jackson. Your ticket supports this. Tickets available online and at CP Federal CU, Potter Center, or by phone: 517-879-7266 & 517-392-6125, www.KellyTrudell.net/JacksonMemorial Submitted by: Gretchen Marshall

"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~~

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:

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST COPY OF THE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER "THE BELLNOTE" WELCOME ABOARD, AND HAPPY READING.

OUR CHURCH CALENDAR 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 AND WE STARTED THIS IN AUG., 2007. NEW
VISITORS WILL GET 3 MONTHS FREE, AFTER THAT A SUBSCRIPTION
FEE WILL BE ASKED FOR, OR CHANGED TO AN ON-LINE VERSION
THAT IS NO CHARGE.

Thank you – Kathy and Vicki
the April Issue, Information is needed by:
Sunday March 21 ~~~~~ Send submissions to:
uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com

or in writing handed to Kathy or Vicki

We want to thank; Steve Beison, Ann Green, Kerry Hart, George & Kathy Haynes, Lynn Hightower, Chris Keith, Jann Krupa, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Gretchen Marshall, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm. and the 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
- $\sim 6 \sim ~ lpha$ 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

March

1 Mon. Bring in Canned Goods -- through March 28 ~ Give food for Lent!

3 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm4 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm

5 Fri. 1st Friday Dinner ~ 6:30 pm ~ Venison Chili/vegetarian chili ~ Hosted: The Haynes Family

7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lynn Hightower, Lay Leader

9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
10 Wed. Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm

11 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm

14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum
 14 Sunday Pledge Campaign- Kick-Off ~ After the Service
 17 Wed. Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm

18 Thurs. JDL/UUCEL commUnity forUms ~ "Why Fantasy Literature is Good for Children

(& Adults Too)"@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm

21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum

21 Sunday A Wizard of Earthsea, Book Discussion during the Social Hour

21 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service

28 Sunday Last day to bring in Canned Goods ~ **Give food for Lent!**28 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Sharon Pedersen, Lay Leader
28 Sunday Respond to your Pledge Canvasser Today at the latest

Upcoming Events

Apr. 2 1st Friday Dinner ~ 6:30 pm ~ Cook-Off ~ Hosted by Chris Keith Apr. 15 JDL/UUCEL commUnity forUms "Landscaping for Wildlife"

@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm

June 6 Church Float in the ~Jackson Rose Parade

May 1 Church Auction

Sunday	Mar. 7	Mar.14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28
Greeters	Alyce O.	Grace M.	Joan B.	Jann K.
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P.	Michelle V.	Sharon P.	Sharon P.
Nursery Helpe	r Open	Becky B.	Kathy H.	Joan B.
Ushers	Open Gary T.	Paul J. Gary T.	Jackie J. Gary T.	Paul J. Gary T.
Social H. Host	Dale & Rose Mary L.	Donna & Kathy H.	Barbara H. & Anthony K.	Pat & Peg G.
R.E. K-5 R.E. Youth	Anne & Jon Gretchen & Alyce	Kerry & Peg Stay in Worship	Rob & Peg Lynn & Tom	R.E. Sunday Jackie & Peggy

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

Mar. 7 - "This I Believe"

- Lynn Hightower- Lay Leader

This is the fifth of our "This I believe" series. Four members of our church will tell us what they believe about the 'big question' of life and how those beliefs affect their daily lives.

Mar. 14 - "UU Sources Series: Jewish and Christian Teachings"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Our UU Sources say that we draw from "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves." This service will explore why these are sources we draw religious inspiration from and how they enrich our faith.

This Sunday we will also have one of our quarterly collections for the Social Mission agencies voted on by the congregation.

Mar. 21 - " Big Read Sunday"

- Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

The Tao and LeGuin – Ursula LeGuin's A Wizard of Earthsea, which is this year's book for the Jackson Big Read, is heavily influenced by the faith of Taoism. What can we learn of Taoism through LeGuin's work? Oh, and I promise there will be something about dragons...

This service will be followed by a book discussion during the social hour

Mar. 28 - "RE Sunday"

- Sharon Pedersen - Lay Leader

At this service, the K-5 children will share what they've learned so far this year, and we think you'll like what you see. A guest speaker will talk about child development. (Note: the youth will have class today.)

http://kermit_21049203.tripod.com/the_bellnote_uucel.html www.libertyuu.org Where people care about each other and care about the world.