

The Bellnote

Universalist Unitarian
Church of East Liberty
2231 Jefferson Road,
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 529-4221

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May 2010

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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

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Minister's Column

It's May; it's May... It's Auction time! For those who haven't been to one of our church auctions, you might think it sounds rather uninteresting. It's just an auction where we sell things to raise money for the church, right? Well, yes, but that's not what makes it so great. It's really about having a fun evening being social with the wonderful people you know or are getting to know at our church. We have a large crowd come, have dinner together, have programming for the children, and then we have the auction. And during the auction people are talking and enjoying and, yes, bidding on some really neat things and fabulous deals.

The auction, like so much of what we do, is hard to explain the appeal of when you haven't experienced it. If you haven't experienced Unitarian Universalism, for example, what we do sounds like any other church—worship services, potlucks, religious education. What's so special about that? Well, what makes us special partly is who we're doing it with, and that's you. Another part of what makes it special is our moral and ethical grounding, and here we are different, because we're a religion celebrating openness, inclusivity, and diversity. This is something you see in our worship services, in our religious education, and, yes, even in our potlucks and our auctions!

May, also, is congregational meeting time. Here, too, we see our openness, our radical democratic faith, at its best. We struggle through hard issues sometimes, with some very different viewpoints as we work to build religious community.

I invite you to come this month, participate in our religious community and its democratic process. Bring your spirit and your ethics and your curiosity, and become part of what makes us a beautiful, dynamic, living tradition.

Blessings,

**~The Church's Annual Meeting
will be held after the Service on May 16th~**

Religious Education Report

Happy Spring!

This is always an energizing time of year for me, between the better weather and the "busy-busy-busy" of planning for summer and fall programs. I also got to attend the District Annual Meeting in Ann Arbor in April, and brought home lots of fresh ideas about multigenerational programs and such. It was great to reconnect with and hear from other religious educators, and people from both large and small congregations!

I will be working out details with the Worship Committee on what (if any) summer programs we'll be providing for kids, and those will be announced in the June newsletter, if not before. One concept I believe we will "run with" is to start the Religious Education school year up earlier, to give August "church shoppers" an idea of what our programs are like. I am proud to announce that all the classes next year will have curricula focused on social action. We will start lessons in the second week of August (after the annual church picnic), which means much of our planning needs to take place before mid-June.

Volunteer recruitment is much on the RE Committee members' minds. Since we will have enough kids for a preschool class again this year, we will need all the volunteers we can get!

Here are the numbers of dedicated teachers we need to recruit: ~ Preschool: at least 4 for to teach once per month (two lessons per month) ~ K-5: at least 8 to teach once per month (3-4 lessons per month) ~ Youth: at least 8 (same as K-5 schedule) ~ Subs and Craft Day volunteers: at least 12 (avg. of one "Craft Day" per month, at least two teachers, teaching twice a year) ~ Summer: to be determined ~ Nursery volunteers: 54 slots (once a week plus 2 for Christmas eve)

Plus, we can always use volunteers for Community Forum nights and other special occasions!

So, this adds up to a volunteer "corps" of about 18 teachers to teach about once a month, and, 12 volunteers filling in as

substitutes or craft day teachers, and, if the nursery volunteers were willing to teach once per quarter, that would be about 14 volunteers, too. If you get a call about regular or occasional RE volunteering, I hope you will "heed the call"! Especially if it's been some time since you have taught previously.

At the RE Committee meeting in April, we went through the whole church contact list & brainstormed potential regular and substitute/craft day teachers for the Fall. Along with 13 current teachers who will be asked if they will "re-up" their "contracts" to teach again next year, we came up with a list of nine additional potential teachers and 14 potential "subs"/occasional teachers. So if most of you say "yes," we'll be all set!

I want to help our volunteers avoid burn-out, because if they're not enjoying teaching it won't be productive for the kids, either. That's why it's important for them to say "no" if they've been teaching and need a break. All the more reason we need new volunteers!

Speaking of volunteers needed, we need a nursery helper for this May 9.

Just so you know, I sign myself up for a fair amount of teaching slots, also, when two volunteers are not available; but the more I don't "have" to teach, the more I can help in a supervisory way, to have supplies and volunteers available. Today at church (April 18) was a perfect example: I was filling in for K-5 because the assigned teacher did not feel up to the task; a nursery volunteer asked to be relieved so she could get some cookies for social hour, and because Rev. Cindy was sitting in on the K-5 class, I could ask her to take my place so I could slide into the nursery. So then a social hour without an assigned volunteer could have cookies (thanks, Nancy Smith!). Sometimes it feels like a little "flying by the seat-of-our-pants," but just as in parenting, one needs some flexibility, and it all turned out fine. The k-5 kids loved making their own chalices out of flowerpots!

IUUv,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

Notes from the Board

The Board met Wednesday, April 14.

Decisions include the following: 1) We need to reinstate a "building and grounds" committee as soon as possible. Various church members will be approached to determine their willingness to serve. 2) Board approved expenditure of \$600 for interior painting, to be taken from Capital Building Fund. 3) A new copier is being obtained, at last! 4) Gratia will explore options for free parenting and childcare classes in the community, for staff and congregants. 4) The Standing On the Side of Love banner will be displayed periodically, and the logo for "breastfeeding is welcome here" was also approved. 5) Agenda was set for the Annual Meeting to be held **May 16th**. Next board meeting is planned for the first Wednesday in May; please see more detailed minutes when they are posted.

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

Annual Meeting

Committee Chairs and other leaders in the church should submit an annual report of their activities. Annual reports are due to board secretary Becky Bowen, by **May 2**.

The Annual Meeting will be May 16th following the service. We will hear reports, elect board members, and vote on the budget for the 2010 - 2011 church year. Also on the agenda will be selection of our special collections for 2010 - 2011 and placement of our Standing on the Side of Love banner.

Reminder to Everyone

Please check regularly the volunteer sign-up clip-boards in the social hall on the corkboard wall of open dates. You are needed to be an **Ushers**, **Social Hour Host** and the **Nursery Helper of the Day**. The Nursery starts at 10:50 am so the nursery worker Vicki and the helper for the day need to be with the children under age 5 before the service. The volunteer list needs the open dates filled in each month.

Auction Treasures

Through the contributions of many people associated with our church, at this time the following items have been offered for our annual church auction on **Saturday, May 1**. Dinner at 5:00 pm & Auction starts at 6:00 pm. We expect that more items will be offered during the final week, so a complete list will be available the evening of the event. The Auction Committee thanks the contributors for their generosity.

Decorative: Church Plates ~ Hand-made framed Paintings ~ Pictures & Prints ~ Stained Glass Panel ~ Oriental Cork Carving ~ Pewter Wine Bowl ~ Potted Flowers and Plants ~ Vases ~ Hand-carved Shore Bird ~

For Your Yard: Lawn Sweeper ~ Lawn Trimmer ~ Lawn Mower ~ Yard Work

From the Neck Up: Gold UU Chalice Necklace ~ UU Chalice Pendant Necklaces ~ Black & Gold Religious Symbols Necklace ~ Sterling Silver Earrings

For the Kids: Baby Blankets ~ Bike Buggy ~ Bikes

Food: Cookies ~ Cakes ~ Maple Syrup ~ Jams ~ Apple Butter ~ Cupcakes ~ Canned Organic Tomatoes ~ Fudge ~ Emergency Cookie Kits

Dinners: Pontoon ride & lunch or dinner ~ Labor Day Picnic Style Cookout ~ German Dinner ~ Raft ride with Pizza and Ice Cream ~ Pizza Party ~ Picnic Lunch on the farm ~ Afternoon Mystery Trip and Lunch ~ Progressive Dinner

Books: Cook Book "150 Recipes for 150 Years" ~ UU Desserts Cook Book ~ Book Marker ~ Digital Scrapbook with your photos and text ~ Aerial Photo Book

Gift Cards: Krupa's Boat Mart ~ Clarklake Restaurant ~ In Good Company Restaurant ~ Burger and Movie tickets ~ Target ~ L.L. Bean ~ Los Tres Amigos Restaurant

Potpourri: UU Pins ~ Mugs ~ DVD Transfer ~ Sermon of Your Choice ~ Homemade Candle ~ Gift Basket ~ Blu Ray DVD Player ~ Ceiling Fan ~ Bracelet ~ Handyman Work ~ Answers to Your Insurance Questions ~ Lake Michigan Vacation Home in South Haven ~ Cash

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Mother's Day Tea

You are invited to attend our Mother's Day Tea on **Saturday, May 8** at 1:00 pm. Please sign up in the Social Hall by May 2.

Submitted by: Joan Bernstein

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's next meeting is **May 16** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Worship Associates Training

The worship associates training is being rescheduled. If you're interested in attending, please sign up in the social hall and we will notify you when a new day is chosen.

Submitted by: Rev Cindy Landrum

National Day of Prayer

Interfaith Prayer Service

Time: 1:30

Location: Jackson City Council Chambers,
161 W. Michigan Ave.

Date: Thursday, May 6

Submitted by: Rev Cindy Landrum

Spring Nature Hike

At the MacCreedy Reserve, **Sunday May 30**, right after social hour. The reserve is located on Skiff Lake Rd. north of Jefferson Rd.

Contact Nena for more information

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Please welcome our
newest member

Barbara Hill

who joined our church
on April 25 th



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, May 20; 6:30 pm,

Carnegie Library Auditorium

"You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train"

- A look at the life and work of **Howard Zinn**, who died in January. He was an historian, author, activist, intellectual, and Professor of Political Science at Boston University. He wrote more than 20 books, including the best-selling and influential *A People's History of the United States*. Zinn also wrote about civil rights, civil liberties, and anti-war movements. Join us in viewing this documentary film of the man who said he wanted to be remembered "for introducing a different way of thinking about the world, about war, about human rights, about equality," and "for getting more people to realize that power ultimately rests in people themselves and that they can use it."

Submitted by: the Outreach Committee

~ The Brooklyn Food Pantry is an Organization that we voted to support under our Social Mission policy~

Brooklyn Food Pantry

It's our turn to have one or two volunteers to work at the Brooklyn Food Pantry, 171 Wamplers Lake Road, Brooklyn. 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 shelves. Our work dates are **Tuesday May 11** and **Thursday May 13**, If you are available to help in this rewarding work please contact Paul Jenkins at church or give him a call (517)592-8350. Don't forget to bring canned food or any non-perishable items for donation to the pantry. There is a basket in the foyer under the desk for your contributions.

Submitted by: Paul Jenkins

Gardening News

Gardening Support Group, this is a small group of church members and friends that meet to share ideas, knowledge, plants, and seeds. Our goal is to help and encourage people to grow some of their own food.

Partnership Park Community Gardens

There are now three community gardens located in this neighborhood just south of downtown Jackson. We need volunteers from our church to meet with residents of this area and help with the gardens. This project grows food, provides information on nutrition and diet, and promotes ties between our church and the people who live in this area.

The Big Seed

This is a joint effort of many organizations to get Jackson residents gardening. Container gardens or starter plants, and information on gardening will be available. There will be a contest to see who grew the largest bean plant. A poster, with bean seeds attached, is located in the church Social Hall. This is all free, but you must register by calling St. Vincent De Paul by May 10.

Any questions about the above 3 articles contact Nena.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

YOUTH RE RETREAT!

We are planning a youth RE Retreat for **May 21-23**, at the church for youth in the 6th-12th grade class. The schedule will be:

Friday night: 6:30-9pm—dinner provided

Saturday: 10am - 9pm, with morning snacks, lunch and dinner provided

Sunday: 11am - 5pm, lunch and dinner provided

No, it's not overnight, and yes, transportation is needed, although teachers will try to help where we can. There will be permission slips/ etc. available starting this weekend.

This will be a lot of fun, with movies, games, good food, and Credo-building!

Parents of youth in 6th - 12th grades, please RSVP to Sharon to let her know your children's plans for attending!

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

District & Denominational Meetings and Events

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay
WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

"Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important & somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses." Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announces a new season of our Wine Country Excursions. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members—some with wine industry experience—or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for similar services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net **We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!**

Submitted by: Tom Wilson 707-254-7443

Dear Members:

Here is information on the MidWest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA). MUUSA is a fun, safe place for families of all kinds, for children, teens, young adults, singles, couples, and mature adults. MUUSA is a place for creativity, friendship, learning, relaxing, and sharing time together. MUUSA takes place from July 4th to July 10th, 2010 in Lake of the Ozarks, YMCA Trout Lodge, Potosi, MI. Please visit www.MUUSA.org for more information and to download a full brochure. Please click on the attached file for a brief description of this wonderful week—the easiest vacation you'll ever take!

630-854-7170 MUUSA gaak9@earthlink.net

Submitted by: Karen Peck ~ 5 ~

First Friday Dinner Information

We are still looking for ideas and host/hostess for upcoming months for the first Friday dinners.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

Chris reported the following information from the April dinner. Our second annual church cook-off was another brilliant success this year! Despite falling on Good Friday, we managed to raise \$148.48. The winners of this year's cook-off were as follows:

~ Best bread or roll: Elizabeth Walker (mini cinnamon rolls) ~ Most kid-friendly: Elizabeth Walker (baked spaghetti squash with turkey meatballs) ~ Best poultry dish: Elizabeth Walker (easy BBQ chicken with cheese) ~ Best meat dish: Lynn Hightower (pulled pork sandwiches) ~ Best vegetarian dish: Peg Gordon (back alley noodles) ~ Best ethnic-inspired dish: Sharon Pedersen (dahl) ~ Best side dish: Kelley Emerson (nutty green beans) ~ Best cake: Carole Hartsuff (pineapple upside down cake) ~ Best miscellaneous dessert: Nancy Cooper (flan)

Submitted by: Chris Keith

Jackson Rose Parade

If you would be interested in helping put together a church float for the Rose Parade in June or helping with the church entry in the Raft-o-Rama, please let Chris know.

Submitted by: Chris Keith

The US Social Forum

Is Coming to Detroit in June 22-26 at the Cobo Hall www.ussf2010.org 1-877-515-ussf. Ask Jann for more information or check last month issue for the full list of what the forum is all about.

Submitted by Jann Krupa
for Marijo Grogan of CANOPAS
(Chelsea Area Network of Peace Activists)

"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 JUNE ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY MAY 23 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM
OR IN WRITING HANDED TO KATHY OR VICKI

We want to thank; Steve Beison, Gratia Karmes, Paul Jenkins, Chris Keith, Jann Krupa, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Nena Obits, 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
- ~ 6 ~ 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

May

- 1 Sat. Annual Church Auction ~ Dinner at 5:00, Auction starts at 6:00
 2 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum
 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 8 Sat. Mother's Day Tea ~ 1:00 pm
 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Guest Minister
 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 11 Tue. Brooklyn Food Pantry, workday ~ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 12 Wed. Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
 13 Thurs. Brooklyn Food Pantry, workday ~ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 13 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum
 16 Sunday Annual Meeting to be held after the Service
 16 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
 19 Wed. Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm
 20 Thurs. JDL/UUCEL commUnity forUms ~ **"You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train"**
 @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
 21 -23 **YOUTH RE RETREAT!** at the Church
 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum
 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lynn Hightower, Lay Leader
 30 Sunday Spring Nature Hike @ the MacCready Reserve ~ After Social Hour

Upcoming Events

- June 6 Church Float in the ~Jackson Rose Parade
 Aug 8 Annual church Picnic ~ After the Service **at the Brooklyn Park**

Sunday	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Greeters	Alyce O.	Grace M.	Joan B.	Betty G.	Carole H.
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P.	Sharon P	Sharon P.	Sharon P.	Sharon P.
Nursery Helper	Sharon M.	Kathy H.	Joyce W.	Pat G.	Joan B.
Ushers	Paul J. Carole H.	Steve J. Gary T.	Steve J. Gary T.	Barbara H. Gary T.	Paul J. Gary T.
Social H. Host	Joyce W. Joan B.	Pat & Peg G.	Nancy S. Rob G.	Jon & Kerry H.	Peg & Steve B.
R.E. K-5	Kerry & Sharon	Sharon & Open	Rob & Peter	Anne & Jon	Intergenerational
R.E. Youth	Gretchen & Alyce	Tom & Lynn	Jackie & Peggy	Gretchen & Alyce	& Craft Day ~ 7~

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

May 2 - Auction Sermon: "Everyday"

- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister**

This is the second of two auction sermons purchased in our 2009 church auction, this one by Ann Green. Miep Gies who helped Anne Frank and her family in hiding during the holocaust said, "I don't want to be considered a hero. Imagine young people would grow up with the feeling that you have to be a hero to do your human duty. I am afraid nobody would ever help other people, because who is a hero? I was not. I was just an ordinary housewife and secretary." How do we find heroism in our everyday selves? Where do we find the everyday sacred? This sermon will explore everyday themes.

May 9 - "Mother's Day Service"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Julia Ward Howe and our UU foremothers – Mother's Day was first proposed by Unitarian Julia Ward Howe. Come hear this service about the importance of our foremothers in our free faith.

May 16 - UU Sources Series:

"Humanist Teachings"

- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister**

Our sources series continues with this service focusing on the Humanist tradition and how it deepens our religious experience as Unitarian Universalists.

May 23 - UU Sources Series: "Spiritual Teachings of Earth-Based Traditions"

- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister**

Our sources sermon series concludes with a focus on earth-based traditions "which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature."

May 30 - "The Tolling of the Bells"

- **Lynn Hightower, Lay Leader**

Bring a picture or memento of a loved one you have lost for our annual Memorial Day service.

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

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234
2231 Jefferson Road

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

