

May 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  
sspetersen@sbcglobal.net

INTERIM PIANIST ~ Tom Pepper  
peppet49@comcast.net

NURSERY & CHILD CARE ~ Vicki Haynes  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ JANE VOLK  
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VICE PRESIDENT ~ NANCY SMITH  
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## CARING COMMITTEE

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## BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Steve Kish~stevekish2@comcast.net  
Kerry Hart~ khart247@sbcglobal.net  
Grace Mulnix



## Minister's Column

For the last several years, I've been pretty involved in the Heartland UU Minister's Association (HUUMA), and in my minister's study group, Ohio River Group (ORG). I've been president of HUUMA for the last two years, having just completed my term, and chair of ORG's program committee for this year, which will end in November. With these tasks ending, I've been wondering, "What next?" Over the last year, I had tried to fill this upcoming void with a few different items of denominational or chapter work, none of which came to fruition. There was about a week after the HUUMA presidency ended where I was really wondering what to do with my denominational-type energy. I have found over the last few years that being involved in the larger association in some way is an important and rewarding aspect of ministry, and keeps me connected to the fact that our movement is something that goes far beyond our church walls. It's only a small slice of ministry, but it's become an important slice to me. Well, the universe seems to be handing me an answer: write! One of the original ways I tried to reach out to our larger association was through blogging, which is something I've let languish a bit over the last year and a half. I'm trying to pick that back up a bit more this spring and summer. I'm also working on a curriculum proposal for the UUA to write a new scouting curriculum. They have another similar proposal, so there's no certainty they'll go with mine, or that they'll accept either one, for that matter, but I'm looking forward to the potential task. Meanwhile, I've been asked to write an article for the summer edition of the UU World. I was thrilled to be asked, as I love work like this, and the subject was also one of interest to me — *The Hunger Games*. I couldn't imagine a better writing assignment for me! As you're well aware, I'm sure, I very much enjoy science fiction, so this is right up my alley. I'm thinking of exploring doing some writing for our district or region in the future, as well.

Have you ever found yourself wandering personally or professionally, not sure what you were going to do next? How did the answer come to you? Spiritual practice can be an important vehicle for opening yourself up to the possibilities, whether you think they're God's message for your path in life, your cosmic destiny, or

Continued on next page...

The UUCEL annual meeting of the congregation  
will be May 20, 2012 immediately after church service.

# Religious Education Report

With April nearly complete, we speed “full ahead” toward the end of the school year...just four or five lessons left before our end of year “Flower Communion” and celebrations. We wish our graduates well in June with “the Wheel of the Year” service on June 10th and look ahead to our new curriculum for the Fall. We take a short summer break in RE programming, and then we start up classes again in August.

We seem to be having our best attendance in the K-6 class, with two to even nine or so kids coming to church on most Sundays. Next year’s curriculum for this age group will be “Holidays and Holy Days,” a UU curriculum where every Sunday is a celebration of different religions’ holidays and seasonal rituals...very fun, and educational at the same time. We will have time for incorporating some of the themes from that morning’s church service into the beginning of “Sunday School” as well. We plan on continuing to have nursery care as needed, and, come August, will offer a “youth group” movie and discussion night at least once a month, with adults having the opportunity to attend and have a separate discussion as well. We look forward to inviting youth from other churches and organizations to the youth program, and perhaps collaborating with other organizations to offer additional programs. More information to come as things develop!

I’m very glad that Reverend Cindy and Nena Obits were able to attend the District Annual Meeting in East Lansing. We are enriched by the ideas we gain from these gatherings, and I look forward to working with Cindy on future programming.

Make sure to let me know if you have suggestions and ideas for “Peace Camp” in August. We will be deciding soon whether to offer this in several successive evenings, or

once a week for a few weeks in August. And again, let me gently ask that if you get a call or email asking you to help with Peace Camp or the 2012-2013 RE program, that you give serious consideration to helping our next generation grow in their understanding of world religions and UU values.

Thank u for yuur suuport!  
yUUrs trUUly, in Religious Education,  
**Sharon**

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator



## Rev. Cindy’s Column Continued...

just a matter of listening to your own heart and spirit. For me, it should be no surprise, one of my spiritual practices has often been to write — to journal, or write poetry, or do any sort of extra writing for my own eyes only. Reading is another spiritual practice for me, particularly reading spiritual writings or poetry. I’m definitely drawn to word-based forms of spiritual practice, but I know many who find walking, gardening, yoga, and all sorts of physical spiritual practices rewarding, as well as classic forms of spiritual practice like meditation and prayer and chanting.

Find time for your spirit this month — join us in worship and song, or get together with groups from church for relaxation and community. If you’re looking for your path right now, we’re a group you can explore options and possibilities with. And if you’re strong in your path right now, there are many seekers who could use a strong guide when their paths are unclear. Wherever you are on your journey, come share it with us!

Namaste,  
**Cindy**

# Notes from the Board

Our church year is winding down, and we have scheduled our annual congregational meeting after the church service on **May 20**. This is the time we elect two new Board of Trustee members, and our 2012-2013 budget will be presented. We also will be given the annual reports from our officers and committees. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

Our BIG fundraiser for the year is our Auction of Goods and Services which will be on **Friday, May 11**. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm with the Auction beginning at 6:00 and do not forget about the children's Auction that takes place at the same time in the nursery area. Bring them along and have fun for the whole family. Our talented auctioneers Elissa Alden and Ann Green will again share their expertise with us. So, plan to attend and spend, spend, spend! It's a fun evening for a good cause.

## Jane

Submitted by: Jane Volk  
Board President

**Help Wanted:** The church board is looking for someone to be the New Chair or Co-Chairs of our annual Attic Sale. This is also known as our Members/Friends Large Yard/Rummage Sale; and it's a good fundraiser that our church budget counts on. In the pass it is been the last weekend (Thursday-Saturday) in June, but that can change to a different date if the new chair/s has conflicts. Please speak with a board member their names are listed on page one of this newsletter. Thank You.

### Emergency UU Prayer

We give thanks for Being

We give thanks for Being Here

We give thanks for Being Here Together



# 's from the Piano Bench

Greetings from the Piano Bench!

We've had a few more weeks of experience with our new piano and I am still interested in feedback about the sound reaching you at your pew. Rob, Jon and I are "tweaking" the balance between piano and PA system, and it helps us if you tell us what you are hearing at your location. Please share your thoughts with me so we can provide the best quality sound for all.

April's Bell Note contains a Music Survey that covers all aspects of music in our Church Service. Your opinions are very important for the Worship Committee to hear so we can plan for the future of our Church Music Program and Staff. Please fill out the survey so we have your thoughts on our musical program.

Come Sing a Song With Me and join us in the choir! We have a very nice group of people who help each other sound good, and make our Sunday morning practice fun. We would love to add your voice to our group, especially a few manly Tenors and Basses! We practice from 10 to 10:45 each Sunday morning.

Please share your music (voice or instrument) with us at church. I love to play "backup" for other people and would be happy to work up some music with you.

I am going to bend tradition a bit at the start of our hymns. Instead of playing the last part of the song as an introduction, I'm going to play the first line, and then start the hymn. Why, you ask? Because I always find myself fishing for the first note when I sing a hymn, and now we will hear it before we start to sing! Let me know if this works for you.

Thank you for your encouragement as I continue to learn this role of Interim Pianist. It has been a rewarding experience to share this journey with you.

## Tom

Submitted by: Tom Pepper  
Interim Pianist

# Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

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## Food Fun and Auction

It's that time of year again. Our annual goods and services auction will be **Friday, May 11**, in the church sanctuary. Dinner will be served at 5:00 P.M. in the social hall followed by the auction at 6:00 pm. Invite your friends and relatives to join us in the fun. We will also have a fun auction going on at the same time for the children held in the nursery area. Come and enjoy! The items listed below are a sample of those offered for bid during the past few years. Typically over 100 items are donated. Some items may be offered for a silent auction if they are delivered to the church by Wednesday, May 2. Auction volunteers will be making calls seeking donated items. Donated items do not need to be recently made or purchased, but please be sure they are in very good condition. The auction volunteers reserve the right to return any item to the owner or ask permission to include it in the Grandma's Attic sale if the event takes place during the summer.

-----Framed poems & pictures - Comic book packs - Maple syrup - Camera - Cakes & pies - Flowers & potted plants - Jars of bread & butter pickles - Framed paintings - Bicycles - Silk flower arrangements - Raft rides with dinner - Wicker baskets - Movie tickets & dinner - Cookies - Fudge - Lawn mower - Kayak - Ceramic figures - Music CD's - Personalized business cards - Local fishing trips - Puzzles - Dolls - Weeks/weekends at vacation homes - Bird houses - Children's toys - Picnic table - Hand carved figures - Hand made jewelry - Home made breads - Piano lessons - Artist painting materials - Hand-made quilts - Sewing alterations - Bath products - Biscotti & coffee - Glassware - Homemade dinners - Lamps - Vases -Outdoor bubbling fountain - Sermon of your choice - Handyman work - DVD movies - Hand made pillows - Bar stools - Blankets -Silver platter - Birdwatcher's kit - Homegrown canned vegetables - Roto tiller - Garden basket - Knitting lessons - Afghan - Lawn ornaments - Garden wagon - Pizza party - German Language lessons - electric floor cleaner - CD player. Numerous gift cards and Much More!

Submitted by: Steve Beison

~ 4 ~

## 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 theJDL website at [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com)...

### Thursday, May 17 "Health Care for Jackson's Uninsured and Under-insured"

Representatives of two major medical/dental providers for Jackson's uninsured will talk about their services, who and how many they serve, how they are funded, and eligibility guidelines. They will also tell us how they got started, the differences between them, about their relationship with Allegiance Health, and how the new Affordable Health Care Act has affected and will affect them. Panelists include Sara Benedetto, Vice-President and COO of the Center for Family Health, and Kristin Pluta, coordinator of Project Access. Ms. Pluta will also represent Allegiance Health. JXN Community Forum presents free and open programs to promote and facilitate dialogue about challenging issues of our time.

This forum completes our 7th year of operation.  
6:30 pm, Jackson District Library  
Carnegie Branch, Sergeant Auditorium  
Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

"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--



### A Special Note of Thanks

Dear UUCEL Members and Friends,

Thank you so much for the love and support you have shown me & my family, and particularly Peter, as we struggle with learning what his new diagnosis will mean for his health. For those who haven't heard, Peter has been diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure. It's a new diagnosis with a lot of testing still to be done, so we don't know much more than that, at this time. We'll continue to keep you informed. Meanwhile, your thoughts and prayers and well wishes are much appreciated. A special thank-you, too, to those who have already reached out with food and other help as I write this, particularly Jane Volk and Vic Marshall, as well as Alyce Oosting who does such a fabulous job with our Caring Committee. I'm not used to being on the receiving end of the wonderful work they do. I also appreciate your patience with me if I seem a little more rushed or disorganized than usual — I'm trying to let Peter do less, which means my doing more right now around the house, and so I'm in the process of re-learning how to juggle my home and ministry lives. We're hoping that we'll have our new routine understood and figured out around here soon. Peace, Cindy

## **You are Invited to a Workshop on THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT *What's In It for You***

The UU Church of East Liberty is co-sponsoring a workshop on "The Affordable Care Act – What's In it for You" that will be held from **1- 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the Word of Light Christian Center, 800 S. Cooper, Jackson 49203. This forum will include professional presentations on how the new national health reform law can benefit women, older persons, non-profit organizations and small businesses followed by a Q/A period. The Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has been invited to speak at this event.

This forum is being made possible by a grant to the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN). Other congregations co-sponsoring this event include St. John United Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ (invited) and the Word of Light Christian Center.

Register on-line for this free workshop by going to: [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org) or by calling John at 517-787-3117. For more information, contact Randy Block, MUUSJN Director, at 248-549-5170. MUUSJN is a statewide network of UU activists that take stands and actions on justice issues

**With a focus on women, older adults, non-profits & small businesses**

**Wednesday May 23, 2012 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Word of Light Christian Center 800 S. Cooper, Jackson, Michigan 49203**

#### GET INFORMED ABOUT:

Our Health Care System

How Senior Citizens Are Benefiting from the New Law

How Women and Families Are Benefiting from the Act

Benefits for Non-profits and Small Businesses

Update on the Supreme Court Actions and Health Reform

How You Can Help Others Learn About Their New Benefits

**Refreshments:** **RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT THE WORKSHOP** on-line at: [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org)  
or call 517-787-3117 or 248-549-5170

CO-SPONSORS: Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN); St. John United Church of Christ; Unitarian Universalist Church of East Liberty; and Word of Light Christian Center This workshop made possible by a grant from the Michigan Consumers for Healthcare

## Personal Care Ministry Project

Help Wanted. Jackson's new Personal Care Ministry is scheduled to open in June. First Congregational Church (FCC) has invited the Universalist Unitarian Church and St. John's UCC to work with them in support of this ministry that will supply those in need with personal care items and cleaning supplies. The ministry is scheduled to open in June and will be open each Thursday at the First Baptist Church downtown Jackson, 5:00-7:00 pm FCC has taken the second Thursday of each month and asks for volunteers to help. Contact Ed or Christine Peterson to express an interest in volunteering; 517-522-4021 or [edpeterson@live.com](mailto:edpeterson@live.com)

There is an Open House at First Baptist on Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. for a preview of the operation of this ministry. Everyone interested is cordially invited. There will be refreshments. Please join us! Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

•••••	•	<b>Church Website</b>	<a href="http://www.libertyuu.org">http://www.libertyuu.org</a>	•
•	•	<b>The Bellnote Newsletter</b>	<a href="http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html">http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html</a>	•
•	•	<b>Church e-mail</b>	EastLibertyUU@yahoo.com	•
•	•	<b>Church's facebook page</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu">http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu</a>	•
•	•	<b>Forum facebook page</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum">http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum</a>	•

**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 JUNE ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:  
 SUNDAY, MAY 20 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:  
 UUCEL\_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

**We want to thank;** Steve Beison, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, Tom Pepper, 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

## May

- 2 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm at the church
- 3 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 3 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
- 6 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 9 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting. ~ Downtown Library ~ 5:30 pm
- 10 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 pm
- 13 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader; Lynn Hightower ~ 11:00 am
- 15 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ 2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company
- 17 Thurs. JXN Forum "Health Care for Jackson's Uninsured and Under-insured"  
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
- 20 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 20 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
- 20 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
- 23 Wed. Co-Sponsoring "Health Forum" at the Word of Light Christian Center
- 27 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Worship Committee ~ 11:00 am

## Upcoming Events

- Aug 5 Annual Church Picnic at Harry & Dee Reed Home

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 27</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Betty G
<b>R.E. Greeter</b>	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
<b>Nursery Helper</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Ushers</b>	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -
<b>Social H. Host</b>	Anita P Nancy S	-	Kathy H Donna H	-
<b>R.E. Pre.</b>				
<b>R.E. K-5</b>	To Be Announced			
<b>R.E. Youth</b>				

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

## May 6 - "The New Jim Crow"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Drawing from Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow*, this service will look at the incarceration system and its relationship to discrimination, oppression, and power.

## May 20 - "Where Are We Going?"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

- This service will look at concepts of afterlife from several different religious perspectives.

## May 13- "Mothering"

- Lay Leader, Lynn Hightower

This Mother's Day we will look at the word "mother" as a verb. What does it mean to "mother"? Different members will share their answers.

## May 27 - "Memorial Day - Grief "

- Lay Leader, Worship Committee

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