

April 2014

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

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Grace Mulnix



All I can think of as I write this column is what a joy it was to see so many same-sex couples get married this weekend, and to be a very small part of it by officiating at a couple of legal civil services and signing marriage licenses. As I write, we're in a temporary period where an emergency stay on Judge Friedman's opinion has been placed, and we're waiting to hear what will happen next. I know that whatever path the courts might take, the arc has been bending towards justice, and that ultimately we will have same-sex marriage in our state.

Theodore Parker, a Unitarian minister, is the first one to use that image of the arc of the universe bending towards justice, and it was picked up and used by Martin Luther King, Jr. However, I like the way President Obama has used it, as he has said, "The arc of the moral universe may bend towards justice, but it doesn't bend on its own."

This past weekend, Unitarian Universalist ministers, UU lay people, UU wedding couples, and even a UU church building actively bent the arc towards justice. It's an amazing thing to look at the fact that over three hundred same-sex couples were legally married in our state. Our ability to perform additional marriages may be in limbo right now, but these couples are legally married right now. In every one of the four counties that marriages were performed, UUs made it possible, through their ministers, the actions and witness of their lay members, their couples willing and ready to get married, and even the use of their building in Muskegon, where the county clerk issued licenses from within the Harbor UU Church.

It's not often that we get to see civil rights history being made on this level. The suffragists fought for equal rights for women for so long that most of the original suffragists were dead by the time that women got the vote. And Unitarian Universalists have been working for decades for equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, as well. Many people have died along the journey. So it's not lightly, but reverently and tearfully, that I celebrate that the day has come. Our constitutional ban had been in effect almost a decade, and it was finally overcome. And deep in my heart, I did believe, and I know you did too, that we would see this day. The work isn't done, the fight isn't over, but this is a huge milestone in our journey.

Standing on the Side of Love,

**Cindy**

Please mark your calendar for **May 18** to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation after the church service. Thank You, from the Board.

# Religious Education Report

As warm weather comes, the months start rushing by. Only about 10 weeks left of RE lessons. I've been enjoying tremendously the RE lessons with the kids and co-teachers. Cindy led the intergen-erational service on March 30, and I took a rare weekend off at Pokagon State Park. Coming up: spring break Craft Day, April 6, and Intergenerational Easter Sunday & Easter Egg Hunt, **April 20**.

The "Mini-covenant Group" got started Tuesday March 25. We'll be having food and fellowship Tuesday nights on these dates: **Mar. 25, April 8 and 22, May 13**. Then we'll decide if and how we want to continue this adventure at getting to know each other more deeply. Join us if you can.

We are hoping to team up with St. Johns United Church of Christ's "Peace Camp" for kids 5 through 12 years old (K-7th grade) this summer, from **July 7 - August 1**. We are looking for people who would like to give one to two hours sharing their time and talents with kids, *especially during that last week*. They will run the camp Monday through Friday, 9am - 2pm and are looking for guests to provide entertainment, lessons, etc. for an hour, usually in the afternoons. Ideas—

- yoga, dance,
- martial arts, etc.
- music, crafts,
- jewelry-making, hand-sewing/  
knitting/crocheting instruction, etc.
- providing craft supplies
- science
- nature walks

Also, Friday is "fun outing day" so if you'd like to share a swimming spot, boat rides, weenie roast, etc. that would be great as well. St. John's has transportation for kids from the city who want to attend the camp—parental permission slip required.

**Continued on next column...**

In other news, I'm hoping to get married "legally" one of these days. Pretty exciting when I've been in a relationship for over 28 years, and had a commitment ceremony which was like being blessed by a minister in 1985. Thank you for all your support. Thank you, Rev. Cindy for bravely going where many ministers won't.

## Time and Talent for Peace Camp Reply Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to share my talent of \_\_\_\_\_  
with children at Peace Camp this Summer.

\_\_\_ I need these materials provided:

\_\_\_ I can provide these materials:

I am available these week dates between  
July 7-Aug 1:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator



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

# Notes from the Board

The board meeting was delayed (again) by bad weather, but we finally got together on Wed, March 19. We discussed many positive things, such as the new website. Please check it out—[www.uucel.org](http://www.uucel.org)—it is newly updated, more user friendly, and, frankly, pretty cool. It is budget time, so we are beginning the painful process of trying to prioritize for next year. One thing that is clear: we don't have enough money at this time to do the things that need doing. We are counting on YOU to pledge generously, so that such things as needed repairs to our wonderful but aging building, can happen. The board will meet in April, but on the second Wednesday instead of the first, because many have plans to travel over spring break.

## Gratia

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes  
Board President

## Annual Reports

Dee Reed, the Church Board's Secretary is collecting the reports from all the different committees. So this is a plea to committee chairs, to do so and get them to Dee by April 15. Please send to [hd1reed@comcast.net](mailto:hd1reed@comcast.net) or hand deliver to her at church. Thank You.

Submitted by: Dee Reed

Please welcome our  
newest members  
**Dave LaRowe**  
who joined our church  
on March 23<sup>rd</sup>



## Regional Assembly: Hunger for Justice

Our church is in the newly formed "MidAmerica Region" of the UUA, and we're having our first-ever Regional Assembly of the MidAmerica Region this April. The meeting will be held in four locations on **Saturday, April 12**. Our closest location to attend is the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan, at 4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-8739. The Regional Assembly will feature a lecture on "Reclaiming Our Liberal Heritage and Embracing Our Hunger for Justice" by Paul Rasor, Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Virginia Wesleyan College. The Regional Assembly will have a social justice activity and workshops on:

- *Conflict and Intercultural Competency: Lisa Presley, MidAmerica Staff*
- *Conversation with MidAmerica Leaders: MidAmerica Region Board Members (including Rev. Cindy)*
- *Gun Violence Prevention and UU: Linda Brundage*
- *Opportunities for Multigenerational Social Justice: Graham Ross, Randy Block, Rev. Jeff Liebmann and Matt Friedrichs*
- *Preparing for General Assembly CSAI on a Just Peace in Israel-Palestine: Larry Cooper and George Garcia*

To register, go to <http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>. Registration is not open yet, but will be soon, so keep checking.

regular adult	\$ 80
on-site adult	\$100
regular youth/young adults	\$ 70
on-site youth/young adults	\$ 90
children (no childcare or children's programming available)	\$40

# Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

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## Personal Care Ministry

The April 17 Personal Care Distribution will be cancelled as it falls on Maundy Thursday. A big "Thanks" to all of our church members who have donated their time, contributed personal care products, and made monetary donations to this worthy cause.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

## Caring Committee

Caring Committee has changed their monthly meeting time from the 4th Sunday and now will be held on the 2nd Sunday after church. So the next meeting will be April 13 at 12:30 in the Nursery. If you are aware of any issues or concerns involving any of our church family for which the Caring Committee can lend a helping hand, please contact any member of the Committee. Those serving on the Caring Committee are: Debbie Hartsuff, Debbie and Fred Marshall, Gretchen Marshall, Alyce Oosting, and Jane Volk.

Submitted by: Jane Volk, Chair

## Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help redistribute the gravel back onto our parking lot and drives. It works best to use a flat shovel, (snow shovels work too), to scoop up the gravel, pour it into a bucket, and then place it back where needed. This can be done before and after church or during the week. Also when the snow is gone we can use some help raking up leaves and other debris. As they say: "Many hands make light work!" Please see the Supplement Page for contact information for Nena Obits or Vic Marshall.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

## 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 Supplement Page for more 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](http://www.myjdl.com).

**Thursday, April 17** at 6:30 pm

### *The Loving Story*

The JXN Community Forum will be showing "The Loving Story," a documentary on "love in the time of Jim Crow" (Christian Science Monitor). This Oscar shortlist documentary recounts the case of Loving v. Virginia – the land mark 1967 Supreme Court decision that legalized interracial marriage. This forum is co-sponsored by the UUCEL & JDL.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

## General Assembly

Registration for the UUA's General Assembly opens March 3 and is available online at <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. Early bird registration goes through April 30, and is \$335 for a full-time adult registration and \$195 for youth (grades 9-12). Discounts are available for congregation presidents. The General Assembly this year is June 25-29 in Providence, RI.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

## Minister on Vacation

Rev. Cindy will be on vacation from March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 7.

# SNOW-MORE ?

THE Cold Air and Ice Will Be Replaced by

Food, Fun and our

Annual Auction

On Friday, May 2

**We will have a Silent Auction in the Schoolhouse and a Live Auction in the Sanctuary. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm in the social hall followed by the Live Auction at 6:00 pm      The Silent Auction will end at 6:00 pm.**

**Invite your friends and relatives to join us in the fun.**

Child care and a Child Auction will take place in the Nursery.

The two auctions are one of our largest church fundraisers.

**The items listed below are a sample of those offered  
for bid during the past few years.**

**100 items or more are often available for the auction.**

Maple Syrup, Flowers and Potted Plants, Cakes and Pies, Dishes, Lamps, Vases, Candles, Bath products, Home-Grown Canned Vegetables, Lawn Ornaments, Cosmetics, Pizza Party, Framed Pictures and Paintings, Gift Cards, Comic Book Packs, Piano or Guitar Lessons, Minister's Fun Basket and Spiritual Basket, Biscotti and Coffee, Large bags of Cookies, Poems, Golf Clubs, Bicycles, Bench, Live Music for an Event of your Choice; Party, Picnic, Dinner, Etc., Mother's Day Silk Flower Arrangement, Office Chair, Puzzles, DVD Movies, Local Fishing Trips, Hand-made Pillows, Hand-Made Jewelry, Silver Platter, Sewing Alterations, Raft Rides with Dinner, Weeks or Weekends at Vacation Homes, Bird Houses and Feeders, Children's Toys, Rocking Chair, Serving Bowl, Cameras, Clocks, Sermon of your Choice, Home-Made Bread, Blankets, Lawn Mower, Garden Wagon, Dolls, Rugs, Hand-Made Quilts, Michigan State Football and Basketball Tickets, Home-Made Dinners for 6 or 8.

**That's Not All Folks!**

**If you would like to help prepare for the Auctions, Please see the  
Supplement Page for my Contact information:**

**Thank You,  
Submitted by: Steve Beison**



### ~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name.
  - Invite a visitor to social hour.
  - Wear a nametag.
  - Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose.
  - Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey.
- Thank you!**

• Church Website	<a href="http://www.libertyuu.org">http://www.libertyuu.org</a>
• The Bellnote Newsletter	<a href="http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html">http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html</a>
• Church's facebook page	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu">http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu</a>
• Forum facebook page	<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.



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

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

**We want to thank;** Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, Gratia Karmes, Nena Obits, Jane Volk, Steve Beison, 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



## April

3 Thurs.	AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
6 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, Anita Pepper ~ 11:00 am
9 Wed.	Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm ~ (2nd Week this Month due to Spring Break)
8 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
10 Thurs.	Membership Committee ~ 10:00 am
10 Thurs.	Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
Sat 12	"MidAmerica Region" Assembly ~at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
13 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
13 Sunday	Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
15 Tue.	Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
17 Thurs.	JXN Community Forums " <i>The Loving Story</i> " @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
17 Thurs.	Personal Care Ministry ~ (Canceled this Month) 4:30-6:30 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~
20 Sunday	Easter with Egg Hunt after the Service
20 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~11:00 am
20 Sunday	The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
27 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leaders, Worship Committee ~ 11:00 am

## Upcoming Events

May 2	Annual Auction ~ Dinner served at 5:00 pm followed by the Auction at 6:00 pm
May 18	Annual Meeting of the Congregation after the Church Service
June 25-29	General Assembly ~ Providence, RI

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
<b>Apr 6</b>	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Joan B	Gary T	RE Comm	Rob G Sharon P	Sharon P
<b>Apr 13</b>	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Becky B	Gary T	Open	Sharon P Laura T	Sharon P
<b>Apr 20</b>	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H George H	Gary T	Open	IG	Sharon P
<b>Apr 27</b>	Betty G	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Gary T	Open	Sharon P Peter M	Sharon P

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

### April 6 - "It's Complicated"

#### – Lay Leader: Anita Pepper

Kermit the Frog once said, "It's not easy bein' green." One could say the same thing about being Unitarian Universalist. What is liberal religion, and what does it mean to be a UU?

### April 13 - "Tradition!"

#### – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Landrum's Communications text book calls an argument from tradition a logical fallacy. But tradition is also something we value in religious communities. This sermon will explore the importance of, and limits of, tradition.

### April 20 - "Easter Sunday"

#### – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Many Unitarian Universalists do not believe in the resurrection, and some do. What do we know about the historical Jesus? How do we celebrate Easter together? Come and find out! Egg hunt following the service.

### April 27 - "To Be Announced"

#### – Service Led by the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will be presenting one of their participatory services on this date. Stay tuned for more details! Rumor has it that the service may be on the themes of birth and life and spring!

W h e n