

April 2014

## The Bellnote News-in-Brief

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

2231 Jefferson Road, Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221 Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

### Minister's Column in Brief

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

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### Sunday Services at 11:00 am

**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!

### Calendar - April

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| 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  |
| 12 Sat    | "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 " <b>The Loving Story</b> "<br>@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm |
| 17 Thurs. | Personal Care Ministry ~ (Canceled this Month)  |
| 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  |

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**Board President - Gratia Karmes** [glk222@tds.net](mailto:glk222@tds.net)

## Meetings and Events: at or affiliated with U.U. Church of East Liberty

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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

### 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.

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