



2014 ~ October

# 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

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## Minister's Column

Our theme for October is "Renewal." One way we can think of renewal is like when we renew a subscription. What does it mean to renew your commitment to the church? What other commitments do you renew each year? Another meaning, as in "urban renewal" means to bring new life into something worn down. My spirit was worn down last year with the tragedy in our congregation, so I'm looking this month at domestic violence and how we move beyond "awareness" and renew our commitment to making a difference in our own community on this issue. Renewal can also mean to resume something after interruption – what has been interrupted in your own life that you want to renew your connection or commitment to?

Our church focused on the book "The New Jim Crow" a couple of years ago. This fall I've been teaching at the Cooper Street Correctional Facility, which has renewed my desire to work on prison reform in our society. The local Jackson-area group JACRAA has also been working with the New Jim Crow, and will have opportunities for us to partner with them in this work. The JAMA and SEMA ministerial organizations in town are looking, too, for ways to bring black ministers and white ministers and all other ministers and other religious leaders together to talk about issues of race and other issues affecting our community. Out of this ongoing dialogue may come opportunities for action. Unitarian Universalist communities are often uniquely poised to be bridge-builders.

On a different subject than renewal, I wanted to tell you about the outcome of the Jackson City Council meeting this week. I presented, on behalf of Jackson Together, a request for the City Council to do two things: First, to bring the Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO) that includes LGBT people to a vote (something first asked for around 2001), and secondly to pass a resolution urging change of the Elliott-Larsen Act, the state's civil rights act, to include LGBT people. I'm pleased to report that the City Council did pass the resolution unanimously, and also unanimously voted to have the City Attorney present the NDO for a first reading in October. This is result of over a decade of effort on behalf of the HRC, PFLAG, Jackson Together, and other groups. Thank you to the UUCEL members who showed up at the City Council meeting. We'll need people to show up on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 when the NDO will have, hopefully, a first reading.

Often I end my newsletter columns with "Namaste," which roughly means that the holy in me greets the holy in you. Today I'll add something found on one of the index cards in our pews, "The silly in me greets the silly in you." May October be a month when you do have moments to laugh and be silly, which also is something that renews the spirit.

**Cindy**

# Religious Education Report

It's been a wonderful start-up in the religious education program, with four lessons and the RE breakfast completed, and a workshop with Kathy Silver, Director of Religious Education, revving us up to recruit new families with school-age children to the church. And a successful playground fundraiser was put together by Jackie Johnson, complete with a silent auction at In Good Company restaurant. I had fun purchasing some playground toys/equipment with the funds slated for that.

Thanks to those of you who attended the workshop, including Paul, Nancy James, Gretchen, Gratia, Cecily, Dee, Marge, and Rev. Cindy. Vic participated some as well! Thanks also to Gretchen for the salad, which went nicely with the spaghetti lunch. Yum!

**Hope you can join me at the CROP Walk, October 12 after church. We'd love to have some kids and families participate!**

Have you seen the UUCEL kids? They're growing like weeds and full of energy to learn, but the young crowd is a little thin around here overall, so I'd like to invite YOU to invite families with children to church, too. I have some nice yellow brochures that discuss our curricula and philosophy quite nicely if I do say so myself—just say “I thought you'd be interested in bringing your kids to church, and I'd love it if you'd come with me soon. Here's some information on our religious education program.”

Here are some of the comments from the workshop in reaction to the question, “what are families with children looking for?”

- support as a parent
- child-and family-focused activities/events
- kids having a role in services
- age-appropriate RE lessons
- interaction on lessons/stories
- support for their philosophy
- fellowship

**And “how can we support them?”**

- don't embarrass children (even laughter can be mortifying)

- make a point to get to know each child and parent
- reinforce caring about joys/sorrows at social hour
- ask children about themselves
- Church Buddies (formerly known as “Secret Friends”)
- Respite for parents
- Discussions that help kids learn about adults and about navigating in society

We talked about how to “wow” people who don't know about UUism. We can say “we are a religion that values science and multiple religious traditions. We welcome you to join us in a warm community of support and caring.” One person said “our religion is about re-connecting.” We can also acquaint people with the denomination's seven principles. (Whoever said we don't believe in anything—it's not true!).

The trends working against expansion of our religious education program include declining Jackson County population, declining church attendance, geography (not super convenient to our county's population centers) and decline of neighborhoods where many neighbors worship in the same place, (To this I'd add “decline of neighborliness.”)

Ideas for countering/addressing these strikes against us mostly centered on public relations, from word-of-mouth outreach (that's where you come in) to email and Facebook, to advertising and/or press releases when we have fun activities for families. We also want to show off our historic church with its modern touches, and look into having regional workshops on the topic of welcoming kids on the autism spectrum, a topic several Michigan UU churches would likely be interested in attending. Finally, we can place our brochures (with permission) at places where families go: coffee shops, beauty parlors, laundromats, supermarket bulletin boards, library branches. We brainstormed a long list of places like this, but I'd also love to get YOUR ideas, and I encourage you to lend your energy to help us grow as a congregation.

Sincerely UUurs,

**Sharon**

**Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen  
RE Coordinator**

## Notes from the Board

The UUCEL board met on Wednesday September 3, with a full quorum. We discussed many positive things happening in the church including the successful Grandma's Attic sale, the usefulness of the building and grounds checklist, and several upcoming fundraisers. We are particularly looking to the fundraiser for the playground {that took place on September 10}, at In Good Company restaurant. Also watch for information about our upcoming talent show probably to be held in February. The full minutes of the board meeting will be posted in the social hall as usual.

### Gratia

Submitted by: **Gratia Karmes**  
**Board President**

### Minister Out of Town

Rev. Cindy will be out of town from the evening of Oct. 5 through mid-afternoon Oct. 8. If you need to reach her during this time, leave a message at her home or cell.



### Our Closing Song

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.

#### ~~ Upcoming Fund Raisers ~~

**Fall Harvest Bazaar** ~ Friday Oct. 24 &  
Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9:00-5:00 both days

**Holiday Baskets, Silent Auction** ~ Starting  
on November 16 ending December 14.

**Talent Show** ~ Date to be announced in 2015

Submitted by : **The Church Board**

## Spiritual Exercises on Renewal Option A: Name What Needs to Return

Renewal often comes through return. We get 25 steps down the road not realizing we had left precious pieces behind. What's missing when you look around? What have you let fall from your life? And how can you help it return? Fun? Forgiveness? Quiet? Time for yourself? That weekly night at the movies? A Saturday walk in the woods? Ambition? Art? Your assignment: Name something precious that you want to return to your life. Spend the month making it happen.

### Option B: Turn Away

"In order to understand the world, one has to turn away from it on occasion." — Albert Camus  
This assignment asks us to take Camus' words seriously. Every religious tradition reminds us that renewal sometimes requires removing ourselves from the normal ways of the world. Often we have to remove something from our life to make room for renewal to return. Remove speed and the rat race from your life by trying out the practice of Sabbath. Remove distraction and disconnection from your family by making a rule that everyone needs to put the cell phones on the shelf from dinner until the end of the night. Remove your evening practice of a couple glasses of wine and find another way to relax. Free yourself from the stereotypes about "senior citizens" and dye your hair purple or parachute out of a plane. Kick the habit of consumerism by cutting your clothes budget for a month or two and wearing the same outfit for one week at a time. (It can be done: <http://befriendinggreen.wordpress.com/2014/02/13/same-dress-different-You-get-the-idea>. This culture of ours offers many gifts, but it can also lead us astray and leave us lost. Take this month to renew yourself and find your way back home by finding a way to turn away.

### Option C: Turn It Into Something New

It's one of the most important insights along the spiritual path: Renewing the world is often the best path to renewing oneself. Whether it is working for justice or finding a way to bring a bit more beauty to our little neck of the woods, fixing the world regularly fixes us. Use this month to explore the spiritual truth more deeply. Here are some stories about how others did it. May they inspire you to find your way: • Renewal Stories - 4 : <http://www.tetley.ca/en/video/tetley-renewal-stories>

Continued on top of page 6 . . .

# Meetings and Events

## U.U. Church of East Liberty

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### Fall Harvest Bazaar

Our annual harvest bazaar will be held inside the schoolhouse on **Friday, October 24** and **Saturday, October 25** from 9:00 -5:00 both days. If you have holiday items that you would like to donate please contact Deb Hartsuff, Carole Hartsuff or Dorothy Kerr. And Lots and Lots of Baked Goods are needed to be baked by our great cooks of the church; if you can bundle/wrap/bag those up ready to sell that would be very helpful. **Submitted by: Carole Hartsuff**

### Playground Fundraiser Update

Thank you to everyone who came out to In Good Company for the playground fundraiser. I counted 40 people from our congregation and we raised \$430. We have a nice plan including a fort and a music area. Watch for a work date in the spring to clean up and install everything. If anyone knows where we can get a cement water culvert to use as a tunnel let me know. As a side note, a couple of the wait staff liked us so much they may be visiting our church! **Submitted by: Jackie Johnson**

### Attic Sale Update

A brief report from the Grandma's Attic Sale co-chairs. The sale that was in held in August was very successful it brought in \$1,360.68. A big thank you to everyone that donated, worked and shopped! Thank You. **Submitted by Deb Hartsuff**

### Cindy's Bathroom Redo Project

Attention all handy painters and people who would like to help with our gift/bathroom project for Cindy—We will be painting and generally “doing” Cindy's bath during the 2nd weekend of October so it will be all set for her and her family very soon. Please see Elissa if you have skills and would like to join in! Please see the Supplement Page for her contact information. **Submitted by: Elissa Alden**

## 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, October 16 Making Your Vote Count:

#### Redistricting, How and Why

This forum will feature a presentation by Sue Smith, President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan on redistricting reform. “Redistricting is an inherently political process. But the lack of citizen involvement and the self-interest of those conducting the process are a risky combination. It allows representatives to choose their voters rather than the other way around.” ~ League of Women Voters of Michigan. Rep. Earl Poleski will be in attendance.

**Submitted by: Outreach Comm.**

### Sunday Afternoon Gospel Sing

On **Sunday, November. 9**, at 4:00 pm  
- The Jackson Personal Care Ministry will be holding a “Sunday Afternoon Gospel Sing” at First Congreg-ational Church in downtown Jackson. This will be a fundraiser, freewill offering, to help buy products for our weekly distributions. The event will include group singing and performances by musical groups or individuals. If anyone is interested in performing or has song requests for the group singing, please contact Nena Obits before November. 1.

**Submitted by: Nena Obits**

## Personal Care Ministry

The Jackson Personal Care Ministry provides personal and household products to those in need in Jackson County. An average of 150 guests are served weekly. Our team works at the distribution on the third Thursday of each month, **October 16** 4:30-6:30 pm. Financial support and donations of new and gently used products are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Nena Obits. See Supplements Page for more information.

**Submitted by: Nena Obits**

## Caring Committee

Caring Committee monthly meeting will generally be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month after church 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**

## UUCEL is a non-creedal church

Even though we hold many differing beliefs, we love and support one another. And we respect, even cherish, our differences. As we embark on the political season, let us remember that we do not all agree on political matters, as well. In particular when speaking in the sanctuary, let us show the same respect for those differences. Thanks!

**Submitted by: Committee on Ministry  
Marge Duane, Ann Green, Gretchen Marshall**

## UUA Common Read Book

This year's UUA Common Read Book is *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* by Paul Razor (Skinner House Books, 2013). Razor asserts that conservative Christianity is not the only valid religious voice in our national social policy. The 2014-15 Common Read invites Unitarian Universalists to explore and claim our contribution, as religious liberals, to the pressing moral and ethical debates of our contemporary world. Skinner House Books is a UUA press, so the best way to order books is through the UUA Bookstore, but it is available from Amazon and available on Kindle. Rev. Cindy will be posting a sign-up sheet for folks who would like to have a book ordered for them in the next few weeks in the social hall. Books are \$15.00. We get a 10% discount if we order more than five, and a 20% discount if we order more than 10. If you'd like to donate your 10% or 20% to the church, if we order enough, mark it on the form.

**Submitted by: Rev. Cindy**

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## District & Denominational Meetings and Events

### 2014 Klein Lecture - "The Human Rights Challenges of the 21st Century"

Sunday, October 12, 3:00 pm with the Rev. Dr. William "Bill" Schulz. Bill Schulz, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, speaks on the human rights challenges facing us in the coming century. Bill is also a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Former Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, and Past President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Reception in our beautiful Social Hall to follow!  
Where: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation,  
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI  
Childcare will be made available thru RSVP by  
Sept 28th to [kleinlecture@uuaa.org](mailto:kleinlecture@uuaa.org)  
Tickets are \$10 thru link at [uuaa.org/150](http://uuaa.org/150).

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by: Bob Hospadaruk  
Cell: 248-613-2476  
Klein Lecture Organizer  
1st UU of AAnn Arbor - [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org)

- The Mosaic Man: <http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=4369> • How I Brought a River, and My City, Back to Life: [http://www.ted.com/talk/aziza\\_chaouni\\_how\\_i\\_brought\\_a\\_river\\_and\\_my\\_city\\_back\\_to\\_life](http://www.ted.com/talk/aziza_chaouni_how_i_brought_a_river_and_my_city_back_to_life) • Washed Ashore Project <http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=4168>

**Option D: Return to a Place of Renewal**

“There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.” Nelson Mandela.

This assignment asks us to take Mandela’s words seriously. Two ways to go about this: 1) Return to a place or time in your past by physically going there or pulling out the scrapbook. Often it helps to bring someone along on the journey. Sometimes they can see things we can’t.

2) Return to a place or time that once brought you renewal. That path along the river or view out over the city which helped you feel that life had possibility again after the loss of your job. Dig out that picture of the dog you had as a kid. The one who slept with you and comforted you while your parents were going through their divorce. Even though it may make you feel silly or sentimental, pull out that old wedding dress, spread it out on the bed or dare to put it on. Call up that old friend from college. The one who was there through so much change and growing up.

Going back doesn’t always mean going backwards. It often can mean gaining back something we need now. Maybe that’s exactly the journey you have to make this month.

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• 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>
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**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 EDITORS:**

“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 NOVEMBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19. ~~~~~ 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, Jackie Johnson, Deb Hartsuff, Carole Hartsuff, Jackie Johnson, Committee on Ministry, Outreach Comm., Caring 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



## October

- 2 Thur. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 5 Sunday Choir Practice ~10:15 to 10:45
- 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 4:00 pm
- 11 Sat. Cindy's Bathroom ~ Work Day @ her Home
- 12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 12 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 14 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 15 Wed. Membership Committee ~ 10:30 am
- 16 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 16 Thurs. JXN Community Forums **"Making Your Vote Count: Redistricting, How & Why"**  
@ Library Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 19 Sunday Choir Practice ~ 10:15 to 10:45 and Perform for the Congregation
- 19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~11:00 am
- 19 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 21 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 24 Fri. Fall Harvest Bazaar ~ 9:00 - 5:00 ~ In the Schoolhouse
- 25 Sat. Fall Harvest Bazaar ~ 9:00 - 5:00 ~ In the Schoolhouse
- 26 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Gretchen Marshall ~ 11:00 am

## Upcoming Events

- 9 Nov. Sunday Afternoon Gospel Sing ~ 4:00 pm @ First Congregational Church

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
Oct 5	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H George H	Open	RE Comm	Sharon P Dave L	Sharon P
Oct 12	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Joan B	Open	Open	Jon H/Kerry H Rob G/Nancy S	Sharon P
Oct 19	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Donna H	Open	Open	Gretchen M Alyce O	Sharon P
Oct 26	Betty G	Sharon P	Vicki H Jackie J	Open	Open	IG	Sharon P

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

## October Worship Theme: Renewal

### Oct 5 - "What Does It Mean to Be a People of Renewal?"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Unitarian Universalism is a "progressive religion" and we talk often about being open to new things, new ideas, new revelations. But sometimes it's also important to remember and reconnect with the past. This service will look at how we're a people of renewal returning again to what nourishes and sustains us.

### Oct 12 - "The Coming of the Corn"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our theme of "renewal" relates to the cycle of the seasons as the earth renews itself each year. Using the Cherokee story of "The Coming of the Corn," this service will celebrate our seasons and cycles, and the fall harvest.

### Oct 19 - "Beyond Awareness"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

October is domestic violence awareness month.

Our community has been *aware* of domestic violence and is a long-time supporter of the AWARE Shelter. This sermon will explore how to move beyond *awareness*.

This service will include a special collection for the AWARE Shelter.

### Oct 26 - "Bullying"

– Lay Leader: Gretchen Marshall

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