



# 2014 ~ October

## The Bellnote Mini-News

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 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.

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### Sunday Services at 11:00 am

#### October Worship Theme: Renewal

**October 5** – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – What Does It Mean to Be a People of Renewal? 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.

**October 12** – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – The Coming of the Corn – 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.

**October 19** – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – Beyond Awareness - 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.

**October 26** – Gretchen Marshall, Lay Leader - Bullying

### Calendar - October

- 2 Thur. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 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 Redistricting: Reforms How and Why**"  
@ Library Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 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

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

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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**

## 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.**

### Redistricting Reforms in Michigan

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.

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