

This Month in Religious Education

I'm excited to report we have added a few new kids to our RE since Christmas! The k-5 kids continue to learn about the interdependent web of life and how we can nurture and care for our world. The teens continue to work on their personal faith through the Coming of Age curriculum. Some of our 6th, 7th and 8th graders will be attending a retreat with other UU middle schoolers called the Middle School Con that will be February 19, 20 and 21. It promises to be a weekend of fun and music at the UU Church of Kalamazoo. Because the kids will be gone that weekend we are pushing back **Secret Friends month to March**. We would like 13 volunteers this year. Please let Jackie know if you would be willing to send notes, bring a small gift and reach out to one of our kids once a week for the month of March. McKrae still remembers getting a weekly note from his secret friend in code several years ago. This is a lot of fun for the kids and their mysterious friends!

Jackie

Submitted by: Jackie Johnson



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 ~~

Venison Dinner -
Saturday, February 6 at 6:00 pm
Potluck Dinner and Game Night Fundraiser –
Friday, February 26 at 6:00 pm

Submitted by : The Church Board

Notes from the Board

The board met on January 13th, with everyone in attendance. We reviewed the strategic plan and noted several areas of accomplishment. Many building projects have been completed, and various improvements to the website are underway as are several new approaches to Planned Giving and fundraising. We also discussed the possibility of a sabbatical for Cindy: she is eligible soon. We looked at a variety of options of when and how this might occur. We are currently favoring the time period of January- April, 2017.

The Board usually meets the first Wednesday of every month; a complete set of these minutes will be posted in the social hall.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

Minister on Mid-Winter Vacation:

Rev. Cindy is taking a vacation schedule that is a little bit different this year, due to Jackson Public Schools having a midwinter break. She will be on vacation from February 15th through February 22nd.

Cindy's column continued ...

and play. A new favorite that I have a copy of and that we played there is "Dixit," which has players sharing stories about beautiful artwork.

So this month I'd like to invite you to join me in doing something I love. On **Friday, February 26** at 6:00 pm we'll have a potluck and game night fundraiser at the church. Bring a dish, your favorite game, and a free-will donation for the church!

See you in February!

Rev. Cindy

This month's theme exercise: LOVE

A Soul Matters facilitator writes,

"I was cleaning my hiking boots yesterday- it felt like massaging the feet of an old friend. Looking at the cuts and scrapes-noticing that the sole was worn almost flat, but their character and soul was very much intact. As I rinsed the saddle-soap suds away I realized that my "old friends" were coming apart- beyond repair. I dried them, put them in the sun. All day I passed them, casting growing shadows as they sat there. I felt an unconditional love, and a loss."

For most of us, hiking boots are not the first things that come to mind when one mentions love, or a "life of love." But who of us doesn't have something, someone or some activity that's served as an "old friend"? That's what this month's exercise is all about: noticing an old friend—an old love—that we've allowed to fall from the center of our attention and the core of our living. And it's not just about noticing this old love, it's about re-claiming it, about taking a couple concrete steps to bring it back to your life.

So here's your charge in a nutshell:

- **Find an object or take a picture that represents a "love" you've let slip from your life.**
- **Place that object or picture in a prominent place for the month of February—some place you will see it every day.**
- **Commit yourself to doing TWO things during February that will reconnect you with that love. (Yes,**

Continued on next column...

two things: one will come easy; the second will challenge you to get creative!

- **Use that object or picture to hold you accountable.**

Here's something that might help. Think about those times in your life recently when you've caught yourself saying, "I used to love to _____." or "I'd love to _____ again." Remember this is not about trying something new. It's about remembering, reclaiming and reconnecting – returning to self, to the self that you've let slip a little.

Don't you just love the idea of our friend's hiking boot sitting in the middle of his kitchen table all month? What will it be for you? A piano book on your office desk that encourages you to set up piano lessons again—for the first time in 40 years!?! A picture of your wife in your wallet that holds you accountable to weekly date nights in February? An order of service from church that reminds you that regular attendance at church ends up making you feel as good (maybe even better) as regular visits to the gym? Or maybe it's not so grand; maybe it's about returning to something simple that just makes you happy—like spoiling yourself with really good coffee or wine or cheese! Or making time again for going to the movies like you did as a kid. And have fun with it! May this be a month of welcoming those "old strangers" and "old loves" back to our tables!

~ Adapted from Rev. Scott Tayler

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

30 Days of Love

For several years, the UU social justice campaign “Standing on the Side of Love” has celebrated “30 Days of Love” leading up to a “Standing on the Side of Love Sunday” on the Sunday closest to Valentine’s Day. This year the 30 Days of Love begin on January 17. Usually there are daily activities that UUs can choose to engage in. This year the theme for 30 Days of Love is “Racial Justice.” We’ll start our 30 days of love at UUCEL with a service on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend focused on bringing us up-to-date on the Black Lives Matter movement. For more on the 30 Days of Love, please visit <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/thirty-days-of-love-2016/>. **Submitted by: Rev. Cindy**

“Justice and Spirit” online book club

Skinner House, a publishing house of our Unitarian Universalist Association, has started an online book club that follows the themes of Soul Matters. This month’s book selection about resistance is *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* by Jeanne Theoharis.

For more information and to sign up, go to: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/173731-justice-and-spirit-unitarian-universalist-book-club>

For those who like to plan ahead, the book selections based on Soul Matters themes for the rest of this church year are:
February - Desire: *Listening Against the Stone*
March - Liberation: *The Third Reconstruction*
April - Creation: *When God Isn’t Green*
May - Blessing: *Blessing the World*

Submitted by: Rev. 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 W. 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. Call Debby Sears at the library at 517-788-4087 ext. 234 for more information or see the JDL website at www.myjdl.com...

Thursday, February 18

“Impact of Land Treaties

with Native Americans”

Students from Michigan State University College of Law will talk about how treaties made by the US government with Native Americans more than a century ago still affect Michigan tribes and their people. **Submitted by: Outreach Committee**

Venison Dinner

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, February 6th** for a venison dinner prepared by George & Kathy Haynes. We will be serving up the chili, meatballs, potatoes and bread along with drinks at 6:00 pm in the social hall. The price of the dinner is a free-will offering that goes into the church’s general fund.

Submitted by: George & Kathy Haynes

Potluck Dinner & Game Night

Rev Cindy would like to invite you to join in something I enjoy doing, playing board games. So please mark your calendar for the last Friday of the month for a night of fun. For a potluck dinner and game night fundraiser, bring a dish to pass and your favorite game in the social hall **Friday, February 26** at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

The Flint Water Crisis:

Many UUs have been wondering how they can help with the Flint water crisis. Rev. Deane Oliva, minister of the UU Congregation of Flint has written this letter on how we can help.

Dear Good People,

Thank you for your interest and support. Here are a few remarks and suggestions concerning the water crisis in Flint. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

First and foremost, the crisis is not exaggerated. The pipes are corroded, the water is contaminated, distribution of water and water filters is a welcome but totally inadequate response. Fixing the now ruined infrastructure is both necessary and costly.

Importantly, testing has clearly shown elevated levels of lead in the systems of Flint children. Know this: the effects of lead poisoning are permanent and affect the cognitive, physical, regulatory, social, and behavioral aspects of the individual causing, learning, behavioral, attentional, and physiological problems, potentially for the rest of one's life. For children, treatment consists of immediate riddance of the lead source, healthy diet, increases in Vitamins C, calcium, zinc, phosphorous and iron; educational, language, hearing, behavioral and mental health resources and assistance.

Please spread the word. Test the water in your area. Be mindful of the toxic materials we are placing into our environment as a result of the plastic and chemicals being utilized.

How can you help?

If your group has collected or plans to collect water:

Large amounts of water and/or filters could go to the **Food Bank of Eastern Michigan**, 2300 Lapeer Road, Flint MI 48503; Telephone: [\(810\) 239-4441](tel:8102394441).

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Smaller amounts of water and/or filters could be donated at five fire stations in Flint.
Fire Station #1, 310 East 5th St;
Fire Station #3, 1525 Martin Luther King Ave.:
Fire Station #5, 3402 Western Road :
Fire Station #6, 716 West Pierson Road;
Fire Station #8, 202 East Atherton Road.Or,
for large and small amounts, an agency that has been distributing water to the homeless and challenged for some time now:
Mission of Hope, 4618 Roberts St, Flint, Michigan 48505, [\(810\) 785-0991](tel:8107850991)

If you would like to donate funds

www.flintkids.org - The Flint Child Health & Development Fund will support the delivery of critical public health, medical, and community based services and interventions that address and mitigate the short and long term impacts experienced by Flint's children who have been exposed to lead.

www.unitedwaygenesee.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=5 Flint Water Fund The United Way of Genesee County has set up this fund for the purchase of filters, bottled water, emergency support services and prevention efforts. 100% of the fund is used for these projects and no Administrative Fee is assessed

<http://www.redcross.org/local/mi> - Michigan Red Cross.

If you would like to volunteer, go to <http://www.helpforflint.com/volunteer>

Compiled by: Deane Oliva, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint
To contact Rev Oliva: cogenisys@aol.com
270 779 9222

Deane Oliva
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint

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 as chair.

Submitted by: Jane Volk

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, **Feb. 18** from 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 Supplement Page for more information.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

• Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org
• The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html
• Church's facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu
• Forum facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum

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 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 MARCH ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI, THANK YOU -

WE WANT TO THANK; REV. CINDY LANDRUM, JACKIE JOHNSON, GRATIA KARMES, NENA OBITS, GEORGE & KATHY HAYNES, 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



February

- 3 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 4 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 6 Sat. Venison Dinner ~ @ 6:00 pm
 7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister: ~ 11:00 am
 9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 10 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 2:00 pm
 11 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
 11 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 7:00 pm
 14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Ann Green ~ 11:00 am
 14 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
 15 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
 15-22 Rev. Cindy will be on Mid-Winter Break
 18 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
 18 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ **"Impact of Land Treaties with Native Americans"** @ JDL, ~ 6:30-8:30
 21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Gratia Karmes ~ 11:00 am
 21 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
 26 Fri. Potluck Dinner and Game Night Fundraiser ~ 6:00 pm
 28 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

March will be Secret Friends Month this year

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday	Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Youth
Feb 7	Alyce O	Vicki H & Kathy H	Gary T & ___	Sue R & Purple Team	Donna H & ___	Gretchen M & Alice O
Feb 14	Grace M	Vicki H & Gratia K	Gary T & ___	Joan B & Red Team	Jackie J & Peter M	Teens In the service
Feb 21	Joan B	Vicki H & Joan B	Gary T & ___	Nancy S & Orange Team	IG	IG
Feb 28	Carole H	Vicki H & Nena O	Gary T & ___	Vic M & Lime Team	Jackie J & Kerry H	Teens In the service

February Theme: LOVE

Feb 7 - "Talking About Evolution"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Charles Darwin's birthday is this week, so it's a *natural* time to *select* evolution as a topic. With an increasing percentage of Americans not believing in scientific research, and science often dismissed by politicians, how do we have civil and complex discussions about evolution?

Feb 14 - "What's Love Got to Do With It?"

- Lay Leader: Ann Green

More than a Feeling - A multimedia exploration of the origins of Valentine's Day and its meaning.

Feb 21 - "Standing on the Side of Love"

- Gratia Karmes, Lay Leader

The Standing on the Side of Love's "30 Days of Love" wraps up this month. Gratia Karmes UUCEL president will lead us in a service dedicated to the UUA'S Love campaign. A celebration of our values and of the power of Love.

**Feb 28 - "Love, Faith, Liberation,
and the Future"**

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy ties this month's theme of Love to next month's theme of Liberation in this sermon that will take a look at the big picture of who we are as a movement and where we're going.

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