

The Bellnote

Volume 214 Number 11

November 2008

Universalist Unitarian
Church of East Liberty
2231 Jefferson Road,
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 529-4221

LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday: 9-10:30, 1-3:30 by appointment
Wednesday: 9-6
Thursday: 9-10:30, 1-3:30 by appointment
Saturday: 10 - 6 by appointment
Cindy works mostly from her home office

STAFF

MINISTER	Rev. Cynthia Landrum
R. E. COORDINATOR	Sharon Pedersen
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Nancy Cooper
NURSERY & CHILD CARE	Vicki Haynes



Minister's Column

I've been writing a lot about the boundaries of what we talk about and do not talk about in our churches, such as partisan politics. But it's important to remember that in November we also talk about ballot issues, and that we as a church can take stands on ballot issues, and have in the past. We have not voted on any of the current ballot issues as a church, but there are many things we can say about the stands that Unitarian Universalism, as a whole, has taken.

Here's what we have said as part of our larger association on one of the issues that's before us: stem cell research. In 2006 the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association passed an "Action of Immediate Witness" titled, "Pass the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act," in which we called on members and congregations to "Oppose restrictions to the advancement of stem cell science, as long as the rights of women donating eggs and couples donating embryos are appropriately protected and there is no intention of human reproductive cloning." Now, the Michigan ballot initiative is not about restrictions, it's about permissions, but if you're interested in some of the argument that this Action of Immediate Witness built its resolution on, in order to inform your vote, it can be viewed at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/8064.shtml>

Another issue on our Michigan ballot is the legalization of medical marijuana. The General Assembly did pass a general resolution titled "Legalization of Marijuana" in 1970, and in a 2002 "Statement of Conscience" passed by the General Assembly titled "Alternatives to the 'War on Drugs,'" we said, "Make all drugs legally available with a prescription by a licensed physician, subject to professional oversight. End the practice of punishing an individual for obtaining, possessing, or using an otherwise illegal substance to treat a medical condition. End the threat to impose sanctions on physicians who treat patients with opiates for alleviation of pain."

However you vote on the ballot issues this November, however, the most important thing is voting at all. One of our UU principles is "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." It's time to get out there and live our religion!

Blessings,

Religious Education Report

We have had a successful RE year thus far, and are looking forward to the weeks to come.

- The preschoolers are enjoying their classes, including picking their "class tree" outside.
- The K-5 class has gotten a lot out of their "Moral Tales" curriculum, with a different story every week from around the world, to illustrate such themes as...
- The "Teens and 'Tweens" are learning more about Jesus, the man—his birthplace and the Bible stories about his development into a spiritual leader.

We had a great intergenerational service, and I hope our discussion of the United Nations, UNICEF, and volunteer opportunities encourages more families and individuals to get involved in community service.

The RE Committee has been planning for the Harvest Bazaar, and later, the holiday pageant and "Santa's Workshop," where kids can do holiday craft projects and cookie decorating during Social Hour. Mark your calendars now for our pageant rehearsals, **December 6th, 7th, and 13th**, tentatively at 11:00 am and we'll keep you posted if these dates and times should change.

Enjoy the Fall,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

From the Piano



Dear Friends,

The choir has gotten off to a rousing start with several familiar old numbers. And now we're preparing beautiful, familiar and old faithful for Christmas. I think you'll like them. We do!

I've spent many hours gathering, sorting and filing choir music, which was scattered all over the church and disorganized. Now, Nancy James is completing the process by recording all the information on each piece so we'll know what we have at a glance. She has spent a lot of time on this project and her work is greatly appreciated. Thank her.

The choir will sing "If We Only Have Love" on Sunday, November 2nd, which means we'll gather for a hymn sing on **November 9th** from 10:30 am until Rev. Cindy shuts us down. Come with your favorites in mind so we don't waste a bit of time. It went very well on our first sing.

I've still hoping for suggestions pertaining to the music in our services. 'Til then, will continue as usual.

Keep a song in your heart!

Nancy

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

The annual community Thanksgiving Eve service is going interfaith this year! This is always a wonderful event for the Jackson community, and now it will have an even broader community of participants and attendees. This year the service will be at

City of Zion Ministries
620 Greenwood Place, Jackson,
on **Wednesday, November 26th**, at 7:00 pm.
Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

Notes from the Board

My Thanks for Liberal Religious Education

We're fast approaching the holiday season, sure to be full of anxiety over truly unimportant details. Since becoming a parent, I've discovered even more causes for holiday anxiety. For example, Jon and I were concerned about Aubrey's first Christmas Party in Kindergarten last year. We worried what religious content would find its way into the classroom. We worried on behalf of other non-Christian families. I also worried what people would think of us for making any sort of noise about this issue (I'm sure you know that Jon didn't share that particular concern). Ultimately, we decided it would be more harmful for Aubrey if we excluded her from the holiday events on the basis of mere principle.

Aubrey's Christmas party went just swell and did not include any attempts to save her soul. A more rational fear should have been over her grandparents' attempts to educate Aubrey about the little baby Jesus, about which she had little biblical context. Her grandparents had had a few religious conversations with her that later lead to confused questions for us. Our belabored attempts at thoughtful answers generally lost her interest, making us wonder if she'd benefited from either of the conversations.

Later that holiday season, she and I were at a party with my coworkers, during which Aubrey entertained a couple by reviewing the characters in a small nativity crèche. These Christian friends were so impressed with my 5-year-old's knowledge and recitation that even I had to ask her where she had learned all this information. "In the play," she responded, "at church". Well, of course. At our church, where we can revere the story of the baby Jesus and other religious stories that teach us about miraculous goodness. At that moment, she had no questions about the story she'd learned at church. She had learned and created meaning about the story, yet she did not suddenly believe that the Son of God had been born of the Virgin Mary.

So during this holiday season, I'll give thanks for my church and its religious education programming. Like virtually all parents, I don't always have the right answer. In this church, I know Aubrey will hear questions and answers that will fill in my gaps. I know other loving adults will help teach her values we all share. Some of those adults will share religious stories they believe, and Aubrey will decide which stories have meaning. In the meantime, she'll still participate in all kinds of Christmas events, because she likes the story of baby Jesus and she still believes in Santa.



Collection Procedure Changes

During the fall retreat meeting, the Board reviewed several church procedures and decided to make minor changes in donation collections for Sunday services and after service snacks.

Volunteers providing snacks for social hour are asked to count the money that is in the "donation box." At the present time it is a tin that is on the table. Please record the amount collected on a form provided, sign the form then place it with the money in a lock box that will be provided. A second form should be filled out with the same information and placed in the treasurer's mailbox, which is located in the nursery, near the copy machine. The following week the money and form in the lock box will be given to Gary Tripp who records the weekly deposits. This process will begin the first Sunday in December.

A form to be filled out by the two ushers for each Sunday service will also be used to record the gifts of the congregation. This procedure will take effect after ushers have been properly instructed, but no sooner than the first Sunday in December.

Submitted by: Steve Beison

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Fall Nature Hike/ Sandhill Crane Watch

Now called the "John Duane Memorial Crane Watch." Please meet at East Meijers' parking lot on Michigan Ave.(North East corner) on **Sunday, November 2nd** at 3:00 pm to car pool to the Haehnle Sanctuary on Seymour Rd. After a short hike we'll sit on the hill and watch the cranes fly in to roost for the night. Those who don't want to hike can meet us on the hill around 4:00 pm. This is a church fundraiser and participants are asked to donate \$4 per person or \$8 per family in the church offering. Contact Nena for more information.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Men Who Cook Dinner

Our "First Friday" dinners will continue on **November 7th**, with Men Who Cook. Yes, the cuisine that day will be prepared by all male chefs. This is not only a fund-raiser for our church but an opportunity to impress the ladies so much that they will be begging you for your recipes. So dig out your best recipe, guys, and help us with this fun event. Your dish can be prepared at our church or your home. Please contact me by phone or e-mail if you would like to participate. We would like you to sign up if you are coming to know numbers to cook for.

Submitted by: Steve Belson

Hymn Sing

Join us for a hymn sing **Sunday, November 9th** starting at 10:30 am. We will remember the old hymns, sing our favorites and practice some new ones. Submitted by: Lynn Hightower

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Please sign up to attend the AUUW Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on **Thursday, December 4th** eating at noon. The program will be announced later. Submitted by Joan Bernstein

Worship Committee Meetings News

Worship committee regular meeting has changed from the 3rd Wed. to the 2nd Wed. So **November 12th** is our next meeting and is now at Steve's Ranch at 5:30 pm. As always we welcome your ideas for a worship service topics & or speakers. Submitted by: Lynn Hightower

Interfaith Event at UUCEL

The interfaith event we've been working on to be hosted at our church has been postponed again. If anyone is interested in working on this project, please contact Rev. Cindy.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

commUnity forUms

...are free and open programs to facilitate dialogue about the challenging issues of our time. ForUms are usually held at the Jackson District Library, located at 244 W. Michigan Ave. between Blackstone & N. Jackson Street. ForUms are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. This month's forum is at a special time and location. The commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

Friday, Nov. 14th at 7:00 pm – Location TBA

"Sacred Storytelling"

The Washtenaw Interfaith Round Table asked high school students within our communities to tell their stories: stories that convey the meaning of faith, the struggles that come with it, the relationships that it fosters, as well as the tensions that it sometimes creates with those of different religions. Director and playwright Jeffrey Steiger listened to these stories from well over a hundred students from ten different backgrounds (Baha'i, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Quaker, Scientologist and Unitarian Universalist). The result of those powerful conversations was a new play...*Sacred Storytelling*, an attempt to foster interfaith dialogue across diverse backgrounds and religions. *Sacred Storytelling*, under the direction of Emily Wilson-Tobin, will be presented as the November commUnity forUm in Jackson. The play is about 45 minutes long, with about 45 additional minutes of discussion and dialogue.

Submitted by: The Outreach Committee

Caring Committee

Our next Caring Committee meeting will be on **Sunday, November 9th** after the service.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Thanksgiving Ethnic Potluck Dinner

On **Sunday, November 23rd** join us for our ethnic food potluck dinner. Please bring a dish from your heritage or family tradition dish, this will be following the service.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum



Book Sale

We are looking for good condition, gently used books to sell at our used book sale. The sale dates are **Friday, Nov. 14th Saturday, Nov. 15th and Sunday, Nov. 16th**. from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. If you would like to help set up for the sale (Nov. 11,12 or 13) or work during the sale, please contact Rev. Cindy. If you have books or questions contact someone from the membership committee. This sale will take place in the social hall, and we are asking for donations to be brought in the night of November's 1st Friday dinner, Nov. 7th "With Men that Cook" or after the service on Nov. 9th, but not before that please. At this sale we will also accept VHS tapes, CD's and DVD's so clean your bookshelves and help out in anyway you can.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

Craft Day

Please plan to attend the **Saturday, November 22nd** Scrappin' & Craftin' Day (any kind of craft project you are working on, bring it and your supplies to work on it; as others do theirs). Our monthly get togethers are on the 4th Saturday of each month. Please contact Caroline if you are interested in coming. The time is from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. There is no charge for participating, but donations to help cover the church's costs are welcome.

Submitted by: Caroline Landrum

Yoga for Advent

New member Peggy Smith is creating a Yoga for Advent class. It will run the four weeks of Advent **Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 & 21**. The focus will be on the positive and spiritual meaning of the season. Class will take place at 9:30 am each Sunday in the schoolhouse. The price is a suggested "love offering" of \$10.00 per class. If that is out of your budget, bring what you can if only yourself! And having this class give me "reason for the season" and I will be giving the church funds raised at this event. If you are interested, please call Peggy.

Submitted by: Peggy Smith

Hungarian Dinner

Mark your calendars now for our "First Friday Dinner" in December, a reprise of last year's successful Hungarian Dinner. Pick up a recipe from Cindy before Thanksgiving if you're interested in cooking. The dinner will be **Friday, December 5th** at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

NAMES Project on AIDS Memorial Quilt

The HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) and many other Jackson community organizations will host a display of four 12' X 12' sections of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt as part of a global commemoration of World AIDS Day on December 1, 2008. The Quilt will be on display in honor of this World AIDS Day in the hopes of raising awareness and saving lives. The display is free and open to the public on **Nov. 6th & 7th - 12 pm - 8 pm - Nov. 8th 10 am - 5 pm Nov. 9th 12 pm - 4 pm** at the Armory Arts Village 100 Armory Court in Jackson. **PFLAG Jackson** is also a sponsor; and we need volunteers in many capacities, including supervision & monitoring of the display in two-hour shifts, and a few quilters who could either make a block ahead of time or bring a machine to the event and help put together a panel. Contact Lorraine Hampton, secretary of PFLAG, or visit HARC's website at www.r2harc.org You may learn more about The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at www.aidsquilt.org

Submitted by: Frank Hill & Lorraine Hampton

Workplace Giving – Please Consider

Thank you for your past support of UUSC. The work of human rights and social justice is the work of many joining hands. During the fall, many places of employment will provide opportunities to support the work of a non-profit organization like UUSC, through workplace giving programs. Many employers even match employees' gifts! When your campaign kicks off this year, please consider selecting UUSC as your charity of choice. If you give through the **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** or the **United Way**, please be sure to include UUSC (ID no. 11685). Saying "I give at the office" will take on new meaning as your gifts help to amplify the voices of those calling for real social change.

Submitted by: Maxine Neil
Director of Institutional Advancement
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FROM THE EDITOR:

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST COPY OF THE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER "THE BELLNOTE" WELCOME ABOARD, AND HAPPY READING. OUR CHURCH CALENDAR 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 AND WE STARTED THIS IN AUGUST, 2007. NEW VISITORS WILL GET 3 MONTHS FREE,
AFTER THAT A SUBSCRIPTION FEE WILL BE ASKED FOR, OR CHANGED TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS NO CHARGE.

THANK YOU – KATHY AND VICKI

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com

Kathy & Vicki Haynes

or the Bellnote mailbox.

We want to thank ~ Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, Nancy Cooper, Kerry Hart, Steve Beison, Peggy Smith, Caroline Landrum, Lynn Hightower, Nena Obits, Joan Bernstein, Marge Duane, the Outreach Comm., Frank Hill, Lorraine Hampton, Maxine Neil and the Membership Comm., for their news items this month.

"Go now and live your religion;
Its truth reflects in all you do.

Go, may love's presence ever guide you.
Live the good life the whole day through."

~ Our Closing Song~

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

November

- 1 Sat. Daylight Saving Time Ends @ 2:00 am Change Your Clocks
 2 Sunday ~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 2 Sunday Fall Nature Hike/ Sandhill Crane Watch ~ 3:00 pm meet @ Meijer's East Parking Lot
 4 Tue. Remember to Vote Today
 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 7 Fri. 1st Friday Dinner, "Men Who Cook" ~ 6:00 pm
 9 Sunday Hymn Sing ~ 10:30 am
 9 Sunday ~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 9 Sunday Caring Committee meeting ~ After the service
 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 12 Wed. Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm @ Steve's Ranch
 12 Wed. Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm
 13 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:30 pm
 14 Fri. Used Book Sale ~ In the Social Hall ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 14 Fri. commUnity forUm ~ **"Sacred Storytelling" @ Location TBA** 7:00 pm ~
 15 Sat. Used Book Sale ~ In the Social Hall ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 16 Sunday ~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Guest Speaker
 16 Sunday Used Book Sale ~ In the Social Hall ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 22 Sat. Scrapping & Crafting ~ 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
 23 Sunday ~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 23 Sunday Thanksgiving Ethnic Potluck Dinner ~ After the Service
 Wed. 26 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service ~ 7:00 pm @ City of Zion Ministries, 620 Greenwood Place
 30 Sunday Yoga for Advent ~ 9:30 am ~ In the schoolhouse
 30 Sunday ~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader
 30 Sunday Hanging of the Greens ~ Decorating the Church for the Holiday's ~ After the service

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4 AUUW Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner ~ 12:00 noon
 Dec. 5 1st Friday Dinner ~ Rev. Cindy's Hungarian Dinner ~ 6:00 pm
 Dec. 14 R.E. Holiday Pageant and Santa's Workshop

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sun.	Greeters	Ushers	Social Hour Host	Nursery Helper	R.E. Teachers
Nov. 2	Alyce O.	Gary T. & Jon H.	Steve & Peg B.	Open	K-5 Rob G. & Anne S. 6-12 Gretchen M. & Alyce O.
Nov. 9	Grace M.	Gary T. & Paul J.	Kelley E.	Kathy H.	Pre. Jackie J. & Jane H. K-5 Peter M. & Meredith B. 6-12 Sharon P. & Becky B.
Nov. 16	Joan B.	Gary T. & Paul J.	Anne S. & Rose P.	Open	Pre. Kerry H. & Sharon P. K-5 Chris K. & Anne S. 6-12 Lynn H. & Cecily S.
Nov. 23	Betty G.	Gary T. & Paul J.	Potluck Dinner	Open	Intergenerational
Nov. 30	Carole H.	Gary T. & Open	Carole H. & Joan B.	Joan B.	Intergenerational

Nov. 2 - "The Fifth Principle"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

The fifth principle of Unitarian Universalism states that we affirm the use of the democratic process in society at large. This sermon will talk about the religious importance of democracy and living our values in the world.

Nov. 9 - "Where Do We Go From Here?"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

After a big election, *win or lose*, there can be a sense of let-down and the question, "Where do we go from here?" can arise. Either way, *win or lose*, this becomes the time to begin the hard work of building the beloved community. This sermon will focus on how we build beloved community in the world we see before us.

Nov. 16 - "A Celebration of Nature"

- Guest Speaker

Nov. 23 - "Thanksgiving Ethnic Heritage Service"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

Our annual Thanksgiving service focuses on how we're a nation of many origins, many ethnicities blended together. Bring a dish from your heritage or family tradition for our ethnic food potluck to follow the service.

Nov. 30 - "World AIDS Day Recognition"

- Lay Leader

Where people care about each other and care about the world.
www.libertyuu.org eastlibertyuu@yahoo.com
http://www.geocities.com/kermitt_210/the_bellnote_uucel.html

Return Service Requested

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Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

