

EAST BREEZE

Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin

Volume 22, Number 3 — March 2013

In The Interim

One of the important things that holds us together as Unitarian Universalists is our understanding of covenant. In many ways it is the bedrock of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. Our theology is strongly based not so much on what we believe but what we promise each other. We are truly a people of covenant.

Why covenant you might ask? **A covenant is a promise. A special kind of promise. One that requires something of us.** Our UU principles and purposes do not begin with the statement “We believe” but rather “We covenant to affirm and promote” these principles.

This also holds true in how we structure our common life in our congregations. What promises, what covenants do we, can we, make to each other in our congregations? What promises, what covenants, do we, can we, make with our staff, with our ministers, with our children and youth, with our wider association, with our communities? And most importantly what do we do when we fall short of the promises, the covenants, we make? What do we have in place to bring us back into covenant and right relationship with each other when, in our humanness, we fall short of who we aspire to be?

These questions are the work you will be doing this month as you engage in the process to create a Covenant of Right Relations for JRUUC. Please plan on participating in the Town Hall meetings scheduled this month. This is important work and is so much the better when all are involved.

Covenant is also about commitment and this month marks the beginning of this year’s annual budget drive. This is an important year in the life of JRUUC as you enter into search for your next minister. What Future do you Envision for JRUUC and how can you be a part of making that future real? Plan to meet with

your visiting stewards and share your vision with them. Make your fair share financial commitment to the future of JRUUC. It really is about the promises we make.

Blessings,
Rev. Marlene

March Sunday Services

10 am

- 3/3 “It’s Not About You”**
The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker
How do we create Beloved Community when so much of our UU history is firmly grounded in a strong sense of individualism? How do we move from I to We? How do we create a Unitarian Universalism for the future? Important questions! The music will be provided by Rachel Avery.
- 3/10 “This Present Moment”**
The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker
We who stand in this present moment in time hold both the past and future in our hands. This Sunday is the Kick off of your Annual Budget Drive and in this 20th anniversary year you hold the past and future of this Beloved Community in your hands. How will you Envision the next 20 years and how deep will your commitment be? The JRUUC Choir will sing.
- 3/17 “A Multi-Generational Music Service”**
Jim Scott, UU Singer-Songwriter
Celebrate a dynamic, tangible spirituality evoked by Jim Scott’s music. “Gather the Spirit” and some of Jim’s other songs are included in our UU hymnals.

**3/24 “What We Promise Is What We Are”
The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker**
This is our first of Two Sundays focused on Covenant and creating a Covenant of Right Relations here at James Reeb. What is a covenant and why is it so important and central to us as Unitarian Universalists? There will be a Town Hall Meeting following the service to begin the work of creating a Covenant of Right Relations.

**3/31 “The Broken Hallelujah: A Multigenerational Service”
The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker**
Come join us as we sing all kinds of Hallelujahs on this Easter Sunday! There will be stories reflections, wonderful music from the JRUUC Choir; and there may even be some Child Dedications.

What is Child Dedication?

A Child Dedication service is how Unitarian Universalists formally welcome children into our congregations and pledge the congregation’s support to the child and their family. We will be celebrating Child Dedications on Easter Sunday March 31st. If your child or children have not yet been Dedicated, please speak with Rev. Walker about having them Dedicated on Easter. If that date does not work for you and your family we can also celebrate Child Dedications at other times.

Sunday March 10, 2013 Annual Stewardship Drive Kick-Off after the service

Join us for Lunch and Fun!

March 10-April 1, 2013
Visiting Stewards meet with
fellow Reeb members

Say Hello to our Ministerial Search Committee!

The Board of Trustees is thrilled to announce that, through the thoughtful process of calling each member and asking them to name people in the congregation they trust, we have put together a strong, diverse group of people to conduct a search and recommend a candidate for settled ministry. The JRUUC 2013-2014 Search Committee submitted by the Board is:

Bev Buhr
Doug Erickson
Virginia Harrison
Thomas Lund
Jeanne Lydon
Colleen O'Hara
Barb Whitney

No choice is more important to the future of a Unitarian Universalist congregation than its call of a minister...For both minister and congregation, the process is strenuous, exciting, and informative. [The Search Committee] must invest hundreds of hours in getting to know each other, the congregation, and their ministerial prospects well, so they can make the best choice not for themselves as individuals but for all. -- *The UUA Ministerial Settlement Handbook*

The Board members believe that these seven people are well-qualified to carry out the task before them. In the months ahead, we the congregation will be called on to support them by stepping into leadership roles they may have vacated in order to serve on the Search Committee; by making the best financial commitment we are able to, so they can present us as a congregation serious about calling a high-quality minister; and by respecting the confidentiality of their work.

Thank you to all who participated in the process of creating this dynamic group. Watch for more updates in future newsletters about the work of the Search Committee.

-- Heike Saynisch, Board President



January Financial Details

	January	July 1, 2012 to the present
Income	\$18,784	\$99,604
Expenses	\$ 14,323	\$77,352

Income in January was very strong (\$18,784) due to some Reeb households paying their pledges for the remainder of the fiscal year. Expenses for the month were \$14,323, giving the congregation a monthly surplus of \$4,442. We are ahead \$22,251 for the fiscal year to date.

Keep in mind that income will likely drop off as we approach the end of the fiscal year. Only \$34,513 in pledges is still outstanding. \$27,500 of that amount should come in via direct deposits so there will be fewer and fewer “surprises” as we go along. We have several significant rental tenants who will be paying during that time so that will help.

Art Hackett, Treasurer

Jim Scott in Concert!

**Sunday, March 17th 6:30 pm
In the JRUUC Sanctuary**

Jim Scott is an accomplished, world-class musician with years of international performance experience and an extensive repertoire of songs on themes of Peace, justice, personal healing, and care for the earth.

His virtuoso guitar work, pure voice, and easy, honest presence are the foundation of a top-tier aesthetic experience.

Donations Encouraged

Stewardship Stirrings

This is an exciting time of year! The budget drive kicks off (March 10th, after worship), the Visiting Stewards arrange one-on-one conversations (email cmbringe@gmail.com if you'd like a visit but haven't been contacted yet), and we *all envision the Reeb we want* – and the commitments we can make to help manifest those dreams.

There are a variety of reasons why people give to Reeb, and the Visiting Stewards are looking forward to learning *your* reasons. Is it the social justice work we do in the world? (Read all about it at www.jruuc.org/social-justice.) Is it the “village” we need to raise our children with values we believe in, around people we trust? Is it the transformative personal experience we gain through Sunday worship, chalice circles, or bearing witness to others' joys and sorrows?

Whatever *your* reason for giving, we **thank you for your generosity** -- AND we hope you'll commit to being a Fair-Share Giver! What's it mean to be a Fair-Share Giver? Specifically, UUs ask one another to take into account their relationship with a congregation and then to give anywhere between 2 and 10 percent of their *adjusted income* to their spiritual home. Remember, your generosity now will allow us to create the budget our ministerial candidates will be seeing a year from now. Thank you for making a difference with us!

Learn more about JRUUC Stewardship at: www.jruuc.org/stewardship

Interim Transition Team News

The Sunday Service Time Survey Results indicate general but not unanimous agreement for the single Sunday service. We are interested in getting more feedback and ideas on this. We will revisit the issue for the Fall of 2013.

Data from 70 responses:

Over the past 3 months, how often have you attended a Sunday Service? < 1 time per month: 8. 1-2 times per month: 22. Most Sundays: 40. Total: 70.

Are you currently involved with any of the following: Worship associates: 11. Choir: 12. Musical accompaniment: 2. Greeter: 7. Religious Education teacher or volunteer: 17. None: 21. Total: 61.

How long have you been attending JRUUC?
< 1 year: 3. 1-3 years: 21. 4-9 years: 22.
>10 years: 24. Total: 70.

The change to a single 10 am service has improved my Sunday morning experience at JRUUC.

Strongly disagree: 3. Disagree: 7.
Neither agree nor disagree: 15. Agree: 25.
Strongly agree: 18. Total: 68.

The change to a single 10am Sunday Service has made it easier for me (and my family, if applicable) to attend.

Strongly disagree: 6.
Disagree: 6. Neither agree nor disagree: 28.
Agree: 12. Strongly agree: 16. Total: 68.

I feel I can always find a seat at the 10am Sunday Service

Strongly disagree: 0. Disagree: 0. Neither agree nor disagree: 3. Agree: 24. Strongly agree: 39.
Total: 68.

I prefer one Sunday service where most of our community is present for that service:

Strongly disagree: 3. Disagree: 4.
Neither agree nor disagree: 10. Agree: 27.
Strongly agree: 24. Total: 68.

The single 10 am Sunday service is meeting my needs.

Strongly disagree: 3. Disagree: 3.
Neither agree no disagree: 9. Agree: 25.
Strongly agree: 28. Total: 68.

Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

Sunday March 24 & Sunday, April 21

We will be developing our new covenants! A covenant is a set of promises we make to each other about how we will treat and hold each other within the Beloved Community.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Marlene or the Interim Transition Team: Megan Barry, Bev Buhr, Thomas Lund, Kim Reain, and Barb Whitney.



Religious Education

I'm five weeks into my classes towards a Master's degree in Education (Curriculum and Instruction - Digital Media) and each day of class I'm given new reasons to appreciate the amazing program we have here at JRUUC. Every Sunday our teachers and volunteers offer our children creative activities which engage critical thinking, build emotional and social literacy, and model joyful and ethical living. I'm finding many ways to apply what I'm learning to our RE program organization, and am excited for where we are heading together!

In my 'Human Abilities and Learning' class, I've learned how important stimulating and active environments are to children's brain development. Our children love the active toys we keep in the classrooms, and have worn many of them completely out. So this next month we'll be adding more! It's through your stewardship of our beloved community that can get more jump ropes, hula-hoops, inflatable-globes, play carpets and possibly even a tumble mat! To help our RE budget go as far as possible, please consider making an in-kind donation of active toys, books or craft supplies. - Thank You!

Another way we can make our RE rooms more stimulating is through the art and posters on the walls, and therefore the RE committee and I are planning a RE room beautification day. If you haven't already signed up to help us choose and hang new posters, organize shelves, hang new cork boards and overall improve the look and energy of our RE rooms you can sign up here to join the fun: <http://bit.ly/revolunteer>

We are always conscious of our children's safety and so I'm excited to announce that we're purchasing new BPA-free cups for our RE snack! We're trying out two different shapes, once we've decided which one we

like more we'll be replacing all our old, worn out plastic cups. If you have any other ideas on ways we can make our classrooms safer, or any other comments or suggestions please contribute to the conversation over at our JRUUC RE Google Group discussion board & mailing list: <http://bit.ly/re-forum>

Finally, to create an excellent Summer RE program we will start planning this month and are soliciting your ideas and input about what would make a fun and educational summer for our children:

<http://bit.ly/jruuc-summer-re>

Thank you for being part of our Beloved Community,
Caroline Hardin, Director of Religions Education

Social Justice Council

Share the Plate Results:

Madison Public Library Foundation \$133

Immigration as a Moral Issue

By Peggy Haack, JRUUC Social Justice Council

Every year at the UUA General Assembly, UU congregations from all across the country vote on 2-year "study issues. For some issues, the next step after study is the drafting of a Statement of Conscience. Recently a statement was drafted for "Immigration as a Moral Issue". If 25% of congregations in our denomination agree, this statement will be brought to a vote at the 2013 General Assembly. When Reeb received the statement, it was reviewed by the Social Justice Council on behalf of the Board and shared with the PJS (Peace, Justice, & Sustainability group). With only a few minor comments, we approved the statement on behalf of the JRUUC Social Justice Council.

We know immigration as a social issue. It impacts real people, real families, real communities. We've come to know immigration as a political issue. People line up to take sides and our President includes reform on his political agenda. Many look at it as an economic issue, debating whether or not it really take jobs away from unemployed citizens or in fact contributes to our nation's overall economic well-being. But a moral issue? What do you think?

The draft Statement – which is now posted on our community bulletin board – addresses how our UU principles call us to support the struggles of immigrants. It also reflects on some of our Sources of wisdom, which indeed call us to action. It acknowledges the injustices perpetuated by our current national policies and the consequences of these policies which cannot help but offend ones ideas of what is right and wrong. "Standing on the Side of Love" demands that we stand in support of immigrants and in support of immigration reform policies. Our congregation has taken some steps, especially when it comes to educating ourselves (we've had services and adult RE addressing this topic) and putting our money towards local efforts (both Voces de la Frontera and the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice have been recipients of Share the Plate this church year). But we can do more.

The Statement of Conscience has specific calls to actions; it calls us as individuals, as congregations, as a denomination as a whole. You will hear more throughout the year, but please take the opportunity to check out the suggestions in the Statement, and determine what you can do. Consider this closing to this Statement of Conscience "Immigration as a Moral Issue: ...*Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we take up this call with joy, celebrating the creative and life-giving diversity of our world's people.*"

Upcoming Peace Justice & Sustainability (PJS) Events

Thursday, March 7 at 7:30 pm, Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* will speak at Varsity Hall, Union South, 1308 W. Dayton St., as part of the UW Distinguished lecture series.

<http://www.today.wisc.edu/events/view/53943>

Admission: Free

Thursday March 14 9:30 am - 4:00 pm WISDOM's Annual Madison Action Day at Bethel Lutheran Church: <http://mosesmadison.org/?tag=madison-action-day> Admission: \$20.00

Friday March 15, 2013, Noon - 9:00 pm; Saturday March 16, 9:30 am - 9:00 pm; Sunday 9:15 am and 11:00am Worship Service at The Rockford UU

Church and Allies for Racial Equity Conference on Cultural Humility: Developing Intercultural Competency at The Unitarian Universalist Church, 4848 Turner St., Rockford, IL
<http://alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org/ARECONINFO2013> Admission: \$145.00 for complete conference; see website for events and related costs
<http://alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org/ARECONREG2013?eventId=560731&EventViewMode=EventDetails> . Rev. Marlene Walker, Carin Bringselson and Barbara Whitney will be attending. Contact one of us if you wish to carpool.

Note: Date Change for *The New Jim Crow* Adult RE Course. This will be held Saturdays, from 10 to 11:30 am, on March 30, April 6 and April 13, 2013. During each 90-minute session we will be discussing two subsequent chapters from Alexander's book. \$10 total; scholarships available.

March 23 MOSES training at First Unitarian Society. Stay tuned for details.

March 23 **Sustainable Saturday Night** begins with a community potluck at James Reeb at 6:00 pm and will conclude with a program of music, action, and information.

March 25 Peace, Justice and Sustainability Group (PJS) meeting, 7 pm, JRUUC

If you would like to be on our email list, contact Barbara Whitney

Membership Committee

All Ages Game Afternoon Saturday, March 16th 2-4pm

Join the Membership Committee
for an afternoon of
Board games, cards and snacks

Bring your favorite game or a
Snack to share and
get to know your fellow Reebers!



Join Reebers for a Passover Seder Saturday, March 30th at 4pm

Yummy, kosher-style potluck food
Child-friendly stories, songs, and participation
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic wine

The sign-up sheet (on a clip board)
is in the lobby (on the little yellow table).

All are welcome!

Questions? Email athexton@hotmail.com

Book Sale & Rummage Sale Saturday, April 13th

April is fast approaching and the Fundraising Committee is busy planning for our ever popular Rummage and Book Sale. But, before this can happen we need everyone to donate the many items in your household, or office, or workplace that you no longer need. March is a good month to start your spring cleaning. Remember, just because you are tired of something or have no use for it doesn't mean someone else won't need it.

You will want to clear out your bookshelves too. You'll need the space to put all your purchases from this year's sale. So, start setting aside the items you want to donate to James Reeb's sale and we will let you know when and where you can drop them off in our next newsletter and the Order of Service. If you have questions, need information or want to know how to donate large items contact Cindy Rudd, 608-244-8428, ruddhaack@sbcglobal.net.



Music Notes

March will be a busy choir month, and we're excited to present some great pieces for you. On the 10th we'll be singing Morning Has Broken in a beautiful recently-composed arrangement with some complex harmonies. The choir is singing fabulously! We will also sing Seasons of Love from the musical Rent, a special request of our Reeb Rave "pick a song for the choir to sing" winner Jan Gordon. What a lovely way to encourage Spring to get here already!

We will sing three wonderful pieces for Easter. We will begin with the first movement of John Rutter's Requiem, which is a gorgeous work of art. The whole Requiem is available on youtube for those who wish to listen to the 35-minute piece. We will also sing two Hallelujahs...Leonard Cohen's version, an encore from Ian Riddell's Ordination service, followed by G. F. Handel's 300-year-old version! These three pieces are each complex, and the choir members are showing great dedication and concentration in preparing them for all of you. They show great care for their community by presenting for all of you while growing themselves in musicianship.

Blessings, and happy upcoming Spring...please!!! :)
Julie



From the Office

The beginning of March is significant for Unitarian Universalists because the General Assembly Housing Reservation System opens at 8 am central time each March 1st, causing an online frenzy at the UUA website. If you are thinking about going to Louisville June 19-23rd, do secure housing as soon as you can. March is significant for me because I celebrate my employment anniversary here at Reeb. It is now my fifth anniversary!

JRUUC has experienced a lot of changes since then, according to the timeline in the Sanctuary. One terrific change you won't see on the timeline is that this congregation has gotten much more generous in these five years. Back in 2007-08, Reeb had 135 members. The total pledge income from 60 households was \$85,430.

This year (2012-13), we have 107 members. We're expecting pledge income to be \$118,000 from 80 households. What a difference! It shows that members and friends are more likely to be giving at fair share levels than five years ago. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth J. Barrett, Office Administrator

UUA General Assembly Registration is Open!

June 19 to 23, the UUA General Assembly will gather in Louisville, Kentucky about 8 hours from Madison!

We will examine and renew our covenant to our faith, one another, our congregations and the larger world. Assembly registration and housing reservations opened on March 1. For more information, go to www.uua.org/ga

Reconnections
Spirituality & Healing for Veterans
at First Unitarian Society
the fourth Wednesday each month
Facilitators: VA chaplain Karen Keiner and
Mennonite minister Ron Adams.

For more information,
contact Blaine Robson at
erblaine@yahoo.com or
Roz Woodward at rozwoodward@tds.net
900 University Bay Drive,
across the street from the VA Hospital.



**Prophetic Purpose
District Assembly 2013 April 26-28
In Waukesha, Wisconsin**

Keynote Speakers: the Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk and the Rev. Nate Walker

PLUS:

- * Inspirational worship services
- * Informational workshops
- * Historic annual meeting on Regionalization
- * Friendship and community

<http://www.cmwd-uua.org/>

Interested in attending with other Reebers? Contact Heike Saynisch at president@jruuc.org

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay
WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY**

“You generously share your beautiful community, your welcoming homes, your expertise and, especially, your warmth. We will remember this trip always.”

Ann McCracken, Cincinnati, OH.

The UU’s of Napa, California proudly announce the eighth season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America’s most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma valleys, e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys

on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members’ homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day “Wine Country Excursion,” (a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members—some with wine industry experience) or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Iris Barrie at 707.363.7552 or barrie001@comcast.net

Is Money Tight?

Call the FoodShare Helpline at 1-877-366-3635

Many individuals and families are struggling to make ends meet. Would you like to see your budget stretch further? FoodShare Wisconsin may be able to help.

FoodShare is a food assistance program and is for anyone with low or no income. This includes working people or those receiving Social Security, SSI, SSDI or Unemployment. You could receive monthly deposits on a debit-like card (called the QUEST card) to help with your food purchases.

If your income is less than the amount shown for your household size, chances are good that you will be eligible. Call the FoodShare Helpline today to complete a confidential prescreening and make an appointment for free application assistance.

Household size	Income limit
1	\$1,862
2	\$2,522
3	\$3,182
4	\$3,842
5	\$4,502
6	\$5,162

Call today! 1-877-366-3635



James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

2146 E. Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53704-4727
(608)242-8887
office@jruuc.org
www.jruuc.org

Minister	Rev. Marlene Walker*	(970) 640-5444	revmwalker@mac.com
Religious Education	Caroline Hardin	242-8887 ext. 1	re@jruuc.org
Office Administrator	Elizabeth J. Barrett	242-8887 ext. 0	office@jruuc.org
Choir Director	Julie Cross	242-8887 ext. 2	music@jruuc.org
President	Heike Saynisch	(608) 206-0644	president@jruuc.org
President-elect	Sarah Cook	(608) 846-2812	pres-elect@jruuc.org
Secretary	Rachel Avery	(608) 663-2912	secretary@jruuc.org
Treasurer	Art Hackett	(608) 244-0627	treasurer@jruuc.org

East Breeze is published monthly by James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your mailing address, contact the newsletter editor (Elizabeth).

Newsletter submissions may be emailed to office@jruuc.org. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month at 5 pm. Please limit articles to 200 words. Please be careful not to include sensitive information.

Read *East Breeze* online at www.jruuc.org.

Religious Education (RE) & Childcare: Childcare & Children's RE are available most worship services.

*The Rev. Marlene Walker is in the office Tuesday-Thursday. Her office number is 242-8887 ext. 3.

