

EAST BREEZE

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

Volume 22, Number 10 — October 2013

In The Interim

JRUUC has embarked on the next phase of an exciting journey. Your search committee is busy finalizing the Congregational Record and Packet that will be the first info that potential candidates for your next ministry will see. And this month they and I will do a mock Skype interview to help prepare for the real deal interviews that will take place in November/December. Then in February they will be meeting face to face with ministerial pre-candidates and, if all goes well, will announce a final candidate to you in April.

It is a journey, for both minister and congregation, that is very exciting, intimidating, daunting, reflective, joyful and at times terrifying. It is a big – no a huge – decision to take that step and covenant to be in relationship as a minister and congregation together. Such a relationship requires understanding and most of all the willingness to trust and no one enters into it lightly.

It is also a joyful journey and even with the anxieties and details it most often is successful. I have confidence it will be so here at JRUUC.

One thing that might be a good thing to consider is just what you want a minister to be and how you want to be in relationship with that minister. Here's one description of what a perfect minister is.

“The Perfect Minister is:

1. Thirty-five years old with twenty-five years experience in ministry.
2. She has a previous background in social work in the inner city; but is equally at home in a rural setting;
3. He has experience both as a pre-school teacher and as a graduate level instructor of philosophy.
4. She should be in a solid committed partnership, and be intimately familiar with the pain of divorce.

5. He should have children to raise of his own so he has credibility speaking to the trials of parenthood, but such family obligations we expect will not hamper his round-the-clock availability for pastoral emergencies and meetings of the building and grounds committee.
6. Her preaching should be scholarly and abstract, but never cool or distant; personal but never intrusive; deadly serious and full of pathos, while always making us laugh.
7. We want a solid leader who never tells us what to do. We walk side-by-side around here, but always in single file. Therefore, we expect her to be out in front while always walking next to us.
8. We are asking for a twenty-year commitment from her; and we hope she doesn't expect the same from us."

Of course the above is tongue in cheek and as with all tongue in cheek humor **it is humorous because it contains a grain of truth.** So as you take this next step in the journey towards a new and exciting ministry for JRUUC I offer these suggestions:

- Remember that ministers of all kinds are simply human.
- None of us walks on water/we all make mistakes
- We all have different gifts and styles
- People who choose to become ministers do so because they care deeply for our faith and for our communities
- Love begins with the risk of trust and is a two way street
- Successful ministry happens when minister and congregation work together
- Enjoy the journey!

Blessings,
Marlene

October Sunday Services

10 am

10/6 “Multigenerational Blessing of the Animals”

**The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker
Interim Minister**

Our animal companions – past and present – are a significant part of many of our lives. So bring your companions – furry, scaly, smooth and even slimy – or photos or stuffed animals as stand-ins – to church for this very special service. See the next column for specific instructions to help make this an enjoyable service for all ages and all species.

10/13 “Appreciating Inquiry”

**The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker
Interim Minister**

JRUUC is about to engage in a church wide Appreciative Inquiry during the months of October through January. Come hear about what Appreciative Inquiry is and does and how it will play a role in the future of JRUUC. Doug Erickson will provide the music. There will be a Congregational Workshop following the service to learn even more and to train interviewers for the Appreciative Inquiry. More info is elsewhere in this newsletter.

10/20 “Bending Toward Justice”

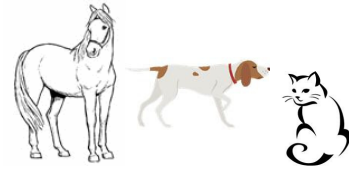
The Rev. Joe Ellwanger

Come hear the Rev. Joe Ellwanger from WISDOM as he recounts his days during the Civil Rights Movement. We’re sure to be inspired as we reflect on our own namesake & slain civil rights activist, James Reeb. The JRUUC Choir will sing. We will have a potluck reception following service.

10/27 “Service Sunday”

The Peace, Justice & Sustainability Group

Come join the PJS in a short worship service before participating in a service project in our community. We honor our history and look towards the future as part of celebrating “20 Years of Love & Justice.”



Special Information for The Animal Blessing Service October 6th

We want this Animal blessing to be a positive experience for all creatures involved so for the safety and well being of all creatures great and small including two-legged humans please observe the following:

1. All Animals Must Be Reliably Restrained Or Enclosed In Carriers
2. All Animals Must Be In Good Health With Up To Date Vaccinations
3. The Chairs At The Back Of The Sanctuary Will Be Reserved For Humans Who May Have Allergies To Other Animals
4. Cats And Other Caged Animals Should Sit On The Right Hand Side Of The Sanctuary With Their Humans
5. Any Large Animals (Goat Size Or Larger) Should Remain Outside And Will Blessed Following The Service
6. Dogs Should Sit On The Left Hand Side Of The Sanctuary With Their Humans
7. If An Animal Is Clearly Being Traumatized By Or Intolerant Of The Presence Of Other Animals, Including Humans, Please Take Them Outside
8. Special Stations Will Be Conveniently Located Throughout The Building With Water, Treats And Materials For Cleaning Up Any Messes. Please Use Them.



President's Note: Sarah's Synopsis

At this writing I am about to leave town for a week with the grandchildren in Switzerland, so this month's column is a quick synopsis of current highlights on and around the board.

- *Ministerial search:* The board agreed to offer our next settled minister a pay package in the middle of the range for our size and location, with the UUA standard benefits. This information will be posted for potential applicants.
- *Stewardship:* The board endorsed our participation in FORTH, "a social networking program to help congregations grow a year round culture of spiritual generosity."
- *Music:* The music staff search looks promising, with news possible by the time this newsletter comes out. Thanks to the volunteers who are keeping us going in the meantime, including lovely choir music on water communion Sunday.
- *Building and technology:* It looks like the Big Oak Child Care Center will continue to use our space weekdays through December. Our library is packed away for the duration. We will use part of the rental income to paint the building exterior and revamp staff computers and Wi-Fi.
- *Celebration:* Gala events in our 20th anniversary celebration include the fab Beatles-themed Reeb Rave on Nov. 9 ("It was 20 years ago today, Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play") and a party hosted by the board after service on December 8. Save the dates!

Sarah Cook, president

A New Coat of Paint!

It's been over 15 years since the building was last painted. But with Fall coming on and visiting Ministers to attract, it's time to spiffy up our exterior. To achieve that end the Board of Trustees has approved funds toward equipment rental, paint and materials purchase, and hiring a father/son painting team to assist us with our budget-conscious exterior makeover.

The work is organized into 4 distinct phases with dates subject to change.

1. Sept 19. Pressure wash 3800 square feet of five painted brick surfaces.
2. Sept 23. Caulk and tuckpoint seams between masonry bricks. This will include treating the exposed metal surfaces of windows.
3. Sept 29. Apply primer as needed. This may be done after service since it is hoped that volunteers may come forward to help out.
4. Saturday, Oct 12th 8 am until we're finished: Many Hands Coalition Painting our building with JRUUC Volunteers and assistance from hired painting contractor.

We look forward to attracting as many volunteers as possible in whatever fashion you can join. Please stay tuned to forthcoming calls for Volunteers.



August 2013 Financial Details

	August	July 2013 to the present
Income	\$ 9,529	\$40,233
Expenses	\$12,327	\$29,618

For August, our income was only \$9,529. This was due to a number of factors, including low rentals and no Amazon money for August. If you plan to make a purchase from Amazon, please access it from our website: www.jruuc.org. We are still in the black year to date.

Art Hackett, Treasurer

A Letter from the Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Dear James Reeb Members and Friends,

Opportunity is what people make for themselves. And for JRUC, we have an opportunity at hand. Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a positive focused experience for understanding our strengths and realizing opportunities to become the congregation we want to be. AI captures the stories of the achievements, motivation, and engaging fulfillment experienced by congregation members and friends. By identifying the moments and activities, which have created positive experiences for our congregants, we can begin to establish a common vision and mission.

It is with this focus that we ask for your participation in an interviewing process of all members and friends of the congregation. Your role as an interviewer will serve as a foundation upon which our common experiences will be explored and how they contribute to the future of our church.

Training will be provided. A workshop and training session have been planned for **Sunday October 13th** following the Sunday Service and to introduce you to the AI process and prepare you for conducting interviews. Additional training sessions will be set up as needed. The expectation is that each of you will be responsible for interviewing four to five other congregation members and friends during the months of Oct-Dec. Interview questions will be minimal and of an inquiry nature designed to capture positive feelings and experiences of church members.

The Interim Transition Team will then gather up the interview responses and using them will draft a series of statements, called Provocative Proposals, which describe the future vision and mission of JRUC. After this, **we will gather again as a congregation on January 26th to dream ways to put into action the future you envision.**

An Appreciative Inquiry needs to involve all members of a congregation to allow everyone a voice in our vision. Your participation is important and very much appreciated. As committee members, your involvement and dedication to JRUC is greatly respected.

If you have any questions regarding the AI process, please feel free to call me or any of the Interim Transition Team members listed below.

Thank you,
Rev. Marlene Walker, Interim Minister
Interim Transition Team: Megan Barry, Sue Dottl,
Kelly Kearns, Sandy Person, Heike Saynisch



Religious Education

We are two weeks into our fall RE program and everyone is having a great time! Of special note is our class of youth (6+ graders), who are working on a photo and video documentary project for our 20th anniversary celebration.

On September 15th we celebrated our annual Kid Konnection, with the children working together on designs for our Reeb '20 years of Peace and Justice' T-shirts. September 15th was also our Teacher Orientation Workshop, where our 17 RE volunteers came together over lunch to meet in classroom teams and plan the fall topics. You can see what topics we have planned for our children at <http://bit.ly/retopics2013-2014>.

We need one last RE teacher's assistant for the fall -- if you have two hours a month, why not joining the fun in our Pre-k to 1st grade classroom? Email re@jruuc.org for more information.

At the end of October we'll participate in Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Watch the weekly email and the OOS for more information as we get closer!

Caroline Hardin, Director of Religious Education



Saturday Oct. 12th Reeb Campout at Lake Farm County Park

Come sing a song with us
around the campfire!

We will gather for an evening of yummy food,
stories, and songs

Contact Sarah Elmore: 608-257-2712 or

sselmore@sbcglobal.net

Dinner is pot-luck;

\$5 for everyone who spends the night

3113 Lake Farm Road – group campsite
Madison, WI 53711

Social Justice Council



An Update from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES, an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state. From multiple angles we are working to decrease the Wisconsin prison population.

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend these upcoming MOSES events:

- **Saturday October 5th**
Monthly MOSES meeting, 10 am - 12 noon,
First Congregational Church
- **Saturday November 16th** Celebration and
fundraiser, 5 - 8 pm, Fountain of Life

For more details about these MOSES opportunities,
email Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com or
see <http://mosesmadison.org/>.

Local Food Social Justice Saturday October 12th at Noon!

Join us at Noon at the CAC (Community Action Coalition) Truck on the East Washington side of the capitol building downtown to collect left-over items from vendors at the Dane County Farmer's Market for distribution at local food pantries. We need 8-12 volunteers and it usually takes about an hour. Kids and friends are always welcome. Please contact Jocie Luglio 442-8814 or jocillator@hotmail.com to sign up or for more information.

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJSs) meets on the 4th week of every month. The next meeting is Oct. 28, 7 pm, at JRUUC. If you can't make the meetings but would like to be informed, you can get on the email list. Contact Barbara Whitney, bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Nights 4th Saturday each month 6-9 pm October 26, 2013

Brought to you by the Emerson East Neighborhood Association's Sustainability Task Force and James Reeb's Peace, Justice and Sustainability group: Each event starts with a potluck community meal in our Sanctuary, includes assistance with childcare and contains opportunities for sharing through our "Sustainability Open Mic." Please mark your calendars for every 4th Saturday through May 2014! (We will skip December.)
For more information, contact Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633 or cordon4peace@yahoo.com.

Free MidAmerica Webinar Leading a Congregation During Times of Anxiety Tuesday, October 15th 6:45 - 8:00pm

When congregations experience transition or change, they tend to get anxious. In this webinar, we'll look at the causes of anxiety, the manifestations of an anxious system, and what leaders can do to influence the system during difficult times.

Leader: Nancy Heege, Congregational Life Consultant, MidAmerica Region
<http://www.midamericauua.org/events>



20th Anniversary Celebrations **20 Years of Love & Justice!**

We have a wonderful and exciting line-up of events to help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary. Thank you to everyone on the task force as well as all of the collaborating committees. Mark your calendars and plan to participate--there is something for everyone!

Sunday, October 20th: Come hear the Rev. Joe Ellwanger from WISDOM as he recounts his days during the Civil Rights Movement. We're sure to be inspired as we reflect on our own namesake & slain civil rights activist, James Reeb. We'll also be having a potluck reception following service.

Sunday, October 27th: Service Sunday – A day to honor our history and look towards the future by working with our community to continue our work of 20 Years of Love & Justice.

Saturday, November 9th: Reeb Rave. This annual fundraiser & dinner will surely be a blast as we celebrate with a Beatles theme and hear JRUUC's very own version of, "It Was 20 Years Ago Today..."

Sunday, December 8th: Celebrate the formation of JRUUC as we recognize the 20th Anniversary of JRUUC's Charter Sunday (Dec. 5, 1993). Watch for more details on this exciting occasion.

And the **youth of JRUUC** have already begun our celebrations by designing **20 Years of Love & Justice** themed t-shirts at Kid Konnection. Watch for the **t-shirts** to be available for purchase starting in Oct. Finally, our grades 6+ will be working on a **video** that will be telling the JRUUC story of yesterday and today.

Please contact Beth Esser, 20th Anniversary Task Force Chair at 608-239-1353 or beth_esser@hotmail.com to learn more and find out how you can get involved.

Auction Items Needed For Reeb Rave By Oct. 16!

As you may already know, the date of this year's Reeb Rave is Saturday, November 9th. The deadline for submitting the forms for auction items and services is coming up fast -- October 16. Please complete and submit the auction items form by the yellow box in the front lobby of the church by that date. You don't have to have the auction items in by then, but we need to know what you're donating (or have asked local businesses to donate for the auction) so we can put together an online auction catalog, for all to see and mull over in advance of the event.

Our theme is "A Salute to the Beatles," so if you have any Beatles-related items in good condition that you're willing to part with, please donate them for the auction. It's also James Reeb UU Congregation's 20th Anniversary, so we will celebrate with a great dinner, desert and a champagne toast (with non-alcoholic sparkling wine) to "20 Years of Love and Justice" at James Reeb. And instead of a kids' auction this year, we'll let them sing and play Beatles songs on a "Beatles Rock Band" game, and watch the classic animated film "Yellow Submarine" in the multipurpose room.

We would especially like you to start right now thinking about not only the better quality items from your home or things you might purchase or services and dinners to donate for the auction, but also to start asking some local businesses, large and small, to donate auction items that will bring in larger bids (perhaps \$20 or more) like they do at the Orton Park Festival Auction. Please contact Leila Pine at sabinosanctuary@gmail.com or 233-5566 to tell her your name and e-mail address & phone number, and which businesses you will contact. Or you can ask her for some businesses' names, so we don't ask any businesses to donate something more than once.

And we are calling all artists, photographers, musicians and literature lovers to start now to create beautiful items to donate for the auction no later than the Oct. 16 deadline -- paintings, drawings, photography, pottery, hand-woven rugs, quilts, jewelry, fiber art, graphic designs, musical entertainment, etc.

We would especially like anything that honors the Reeb Congregation's 20th Anniversary. Please help us make this the best Reeb Rave ever! "All you need is love -- auction items or services to donate."



Music Notes

Stewardship Stirrings

As many of you read last month, the Stewardship Team will be utilizing the UUA's stewardship development program, FORTH (Forward Through the Ages), as a 'roadmap' to help us cultivate a year round culture of spiritual generosity. The first step was for five individuals in our congregation to complete a questionnaire. The assessment was divided into various areas: general congregational culture, membership, ministry/caring & worship/music, program/education/outreach, administration/facilities, and governance/leadership. For each there were very positive statements. We told how often we thought each was true, from "Never" (that's bad!) to "Always" (we're great!).

We placed about in the middle: we're good, but we can improve. A few things on which we scored really well were: (a) congregants share their time, talent, and treasure with local service and social justice groups; (b) congregants feel welcome regardless of socioeconomic status; and (c) the annual budget balances income & expenses. Areas with major opportunities for growth included: honoring congregants' legacies with planned giving/memorial programs, establishing an endowment, and making fair share contributions to the UUA and district.

While we can and should celebrate our many accomplishments at JRUUC, the Stewardship team also hopes to continue deepening the heart and spirit of Stewardship in our congregation all year long. You can learn more at <http://www.jruuc.org/stewardship>.

We Have a New Choir Director/ Piano Accompanist!

Charles (Chuck) Philyaw has over 25 years of musical experience, both religious and secular. He says, "As the Director of Music Liturgy and chairperson for the Worship and Spiritual Committee, I worked closely with staff and volunteers to develop fresh ideas that would engage people in their worship experience."

Chuck's spiritual journey brought him to JRUUC a while ago; and when he saw our ad for the music position, he applied, thinking it might be a good fit. He visited JRUUC a few more times before the application process was closed. He even heard the choir sing, so we had little question that he knew what he was getting into.

After the initial interview, Chuck met with the choir and taught us a delightful piece of music. He spoke with the choir and answered more questions about his background and musical philosophy. He got rousing endorsement from the choir, so we offered him the position and he accepted. Chuck will be on board this week, his employment contingent on his background check being satisfactory.

We are pleased with the results of our search and hope to get on with the joyful noise! We thank Rev. Marlene for all her help with this endeavor.

Rachel Avery, Tom Kemble, Mary Wagner
Music Search Committee



From the Office

Autumnal Greetings! My, we have so much happening around here. You probably noticed that the weekend of October 12-13 is chock full of energizing events and important opportunities: come to paint our building Saturday morning before meeting at the Capital Square with CAC at noon. Afterwards, take a dish to Lake Farm County Park for the fun JRUUC camp-out. You needn't spend the night if your idea of roughing it is to use just one towel when taking a morning shower (I'm projecting).

Sunday morning, October 13th, the Rev. Marlene's topic is Appreciative Inquiry, a positive focused experience for understanding our strengths and realizing opportunities to become the congregation we want to be. This will be followed by a wonderful workshop and training (see page 4 for more information). If you still have energy left, drive over to First Unitarian for a Roy Zimmerman Concert that evening at 8 pm!

Have you seen the new *Race to Equity* report? This report shows the stark evidence of racial disparities in Dane county. Profound and persistent racial disparities in health, education, child welfare, criminal justice, employment, and income are common across the United States, but are the worst in our county. That's right – we have become the worst county in the entire nation for African Americans by all of the above measurements. I am heart-broken and spurred to work with others to change this. The report is on my desk if you want a look or access it online at: http://www.wccf.org/proj_disparity.php

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

**State Representative Chris Taylor
and Alder Larry Palm
Listening Session October 28 6-8 pm
in our Sanctuary**

**This is a non-partisan event for which Rep.
Taylor's staff has rented our space.**

UU Women's Connection Fall Conference Singing in Sacred Circle in Racine WI

**Friday, October 18, 2013 at 4 pm
To Sunday, October 20, 2013 at 1 pm**

At the DeKoven Retreat Center
600 - 21st Street, Racine, WI 53403

The Keynote speaker will be Shelley Graff
Feminist singer, songwriter, guitarist and
Singing in Sacred Circle facilitator
<http://www.shelleyg.com/>

Find out more at:
<http://www.midamericauua.org/>
Click on Events

Winter WomanSpirit 2014 Wisdom for the Journey: A Weekend with Sue Monk Kidd February 7-9, 2014

DuPage UU Congregation
Naperville, Illinois

Early Registration is \$160 per person
through November 1st.

(Hotel accommodations are separate.)

Register today at:

<https://www.regonline.com/w2014>

Writer Sue Monk Kidd is one of the foremost explorers of the feminine divine and spiritual creativity for women. Her fiction works dance on the edges of magical realism as she celebrates the con-nection between writing, creativity, and soul, and her non-fiction writings have provided a map for women seeking to expand and reclaim their own spiritual power.



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

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. Dr. Marlene Walker takes Mondays off.