

EAST BREEZE

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

Volume 23, Number 1— January 2014

In The Interim

Welcome to 2014 and a new year full of hopes, challenges and new beginnings. As many of you know my new year has not turned out to be what I had expected. I know that life can turn and change in a moment. When I found myself one moment standing on a solid step stool to trim our Christmas tree and in the next moment in free fall and landing with a crash and crack resulting in badly broken ankle I knew instantly that not only would my holidays be different than planned but the new year would bring a whole new set of hopes, challenges and new beginnings. I've now had surgery to repair the broken ankle and am learning to get around using a wheelchair and walker. Not an easy lesson for someone who likes to be on the move and go.

Thank you to so many of you who stepped in to make sure that the Reeb holiday services were wonderful. I missed being with you. I have experienced personally the depth of heart and can-do spirit of this wonderful congregation.

I will begin to be back for important meetings starting the week of January 6th and back leading worship Jan. 12th, albeit from a wheelchair since I will not be able to put any weight on that leg until the end of January.

This New Year brings with it many exciting activities and changes and there will be lots to do. This month we will continue our Congregational Appreciative Inquiry with a Town Hall Workshop on January 26th following the service. This workshop will be an exciting and creative way to join in determining what the Vision of JRUUC will look like based on the Provocative Statements that came out of the one-on-one interviews held in November. Plan on being there to be part of this important work and process.

Blessings,
Marlene

January Services

10 am

1/5 “Epiphany”

Sarah Cook

Epiphany is a sudden deep insight or manifestation of the divine. It's also the Feast of the Magi (three kings, wise men) on January 6. What gifts do you bring? What star will you follow? How might you encounter the holy?

1/12 “Capacity: the Second of the Three ‘C’s”

The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Interim Minister

This is the second of the 3C's focus of the year. The first was Curiosity and the third will be Communication. How do we discern what our capacity is and how do we go about building capacity where we need to?

1/19 “The Arc of the Universe”

The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Interim Minister

On this MLK weekend 2014 I will wrestle with the question of answering our call to move the arc of the universe towards justice in this time of the “New Jim Crow.” What are we called to do individually and as a community of faith and how do we go about doing that? The JRUUC choir will sing.

1/26 “Living the Questions”

The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Interim Minister

In November over half of the congregation participated in one-on-one interviews as part of your Congregational Appreciative Inquiry. The Interim Transition team has been busy creating Provocative Statements based on your responses. Now is the time to begin living into your answers to those questions. Lunch and Town Hall Workshop follows: see Page 3.

President's Note: Sarah's Synthesis



It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, and JRUUC's depth and breadth of leadership was evident throughout. Thanks to the many who stepped up to make Charter Sunday such a high and to keep our holiday services going in the wake of Rev. Marlene's broken ankle. Meanwhile others spruced up the building, organized the holiday sale and the giving tree, taught our children, and on and on.

Outside of Reeb, I just ended a 16-year run of reading and writing about leadership for an unrelated monthly newsletter. Many principles from there apply to JRUUC as well.

First, anyone can lead. You don't need a position title or special credentials. The person who starts cleaning up the kitchen after a potluck is being a leader.

Second, a leader needs followers. There's an African saying that someone who thinks s/he is leading but has nobody following is merely taking a walk. We need to allow our lay and staff leaders to lead, even when that means doing something a little differently from how we might have. We also need to support our leaders with encouragement, forgiveness, and humor.

Third, effective leaders empower others. Strive never to do anything alone that you could do with somebody else. If you stopped your current activity at Reeb, are there others who know how to do it? If not, train someone! Leadership at JRUUC is strong and we can keep making it stronger.

Sarah Cook, President

Seeking Buddies

Do you have experience with (or interest in) supporting Reebers who are differently-abled? Three Sundays/month sisters Marge & Anne have special, supportive Buddies who advocate for them and help them remember appropriate expectations. This is a volunteer opportunity ripe for increasing your patience and compassion -- with potential for meaningful spiritual transformation. Plus, you can make a difference right here at Reeb! For more information / materials, contact Carin B.

November 2013 Financial Details

	November	July 2013 to the present
Income	\$12,662	\$72,595
Expenses	\$12,705	\$71,680

Some of you may remember an earlier column, probably written early last summer, in which I noted that for the first time in more than a few years, JRUUC had passed through the closing months of the budget year without my having to do cash flow calculations to make sure we had the money to pay the bills through the start of the new budget year. In fact, we finished 2012-13 with a surplus and brought in more gifts than usual through September.

For the month of November, we had \$12,662 in income against expenses of \$12,705 for a net loss of about \$43 for the month. However \$4,300 of that income came from the Reeb Rave which is a one-time event for the year. At the beginning of December, our year-to-date budget surplus was only \$916.

Why did this happen? There are several reasons. Expenses are running around seven percent above what we expected when we drew up the budget. Some of that is due to increased utility costs. On the income side, rentals are down by over 70 percent of budget. Some of that is due to major renters who went elsewhere because of Big Oak's temporary use of the building. It should be noted that the income from Big Oak is well above the budgeted amount, but is reserved for capital and other special expenses approved by the Board of Trustees.

The financial reports for December are not complete yet, but we do know that our income is over \$25,500 for the month, almost twice the November total. Thanks to all those who paid off their pledges and made end of the year gifts, we are again in good shape! Halfway through the year, we have a surplus of about \$3,000. Exact numbers will be in our next newsletter.

**Appreciative Inquiry
Congregational
Town Hall Workshop
Sunday, January 26th noon - 3pm**

**Begin to bring life to what you want
to be the future of JRUUC!**

**The Interim Transition Team has been busy
drafting a series of Provocative Statements
based on your responses to the one-on-one
Interviews conducted in November.**

**At this workshop we will do some
creative visioning based on those
Provocative Statements to design the
future of JRUUC and to begin to
create concrete Action Teams to bring
that future into reality.**

You don't want to miss this!

**The Interim Transition team will provide soup.
Please bring a potluck side dish to share.
Child Care will be available if needed.
Contact Kelly Kearns
kelly.kearns@wisconsin.gov or 249-0619**



Religious Education

[Caroline did not submit an article, so I revised last month's. Ed.]

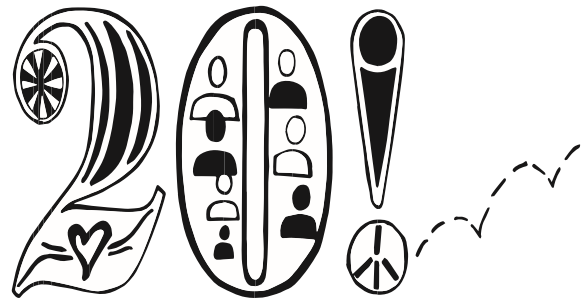
Please return your Guest at your Table Box this Sunday, January 5, 2014 which is the Kid Re-Konnection.

January 12th will be the first day of regular RE, so plan to attend the **Teacher Refresher Brunch!** We say Thank You to our fall RE volunteers and welcome new Spring RE volunteers with a special meal following service. Classroom teams will have time to meet and plan the Spring semester, and new volunteers will get oriented to the RE program. Give

a special holiday gift to our children by joining us, in whatever volunteer capacity is comfortable to you: <http://bit.ly/revolunteer> .

At the end of this month we plan to refresh our RE rooms after Big Oak returns to their newly renovated building. We are looking at a variety of new books, toys and classroom furniture -- take a look at some of the items we are considering on our Wishlist.

Caroline Hardin, Director of Religious Education
re@jruuc.org 608-469-1294



20th Anniversary Celebrations: 20 Years of Love & Justice

It's January 2014 so our 20th anniversary year has officially come to an end. I am grateful to all of our charter members. What a delight to see some of them at our December 8th celebration! I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the Rev. Marlene Walker, the Board of Trustees, Carin Bringelson and Charlie McNulty who were the core of our 20th anniversary planning task force. And to each one of you, the members and friends of JRUUC...your commitment to Love & Justice within and beyond our walls is the reason why we have so much to celebrate.

I look forward to our next 20 years and beyond! And if you did not yet get one of the 20 Years of Love & Justice purple refrigerator magnets, please ask me for one (a special thanks to Megan Barry for getting these). Finally, please check out the new JRUUC history timeline at <http://www.jruuc.org/timeline/>- We have the great talents of Charlie and Carin to thank for this awesome website update!

Beth Esser 239-1353 or beth_esser@hotmail.com

Social Justice Council

Recent Share the Plate totals

350.org	\$127.50
The Boys and Girls Club	\$158.00
Tenant Resource Center	\$183.50
Madison-Area Urban Ministry	\$181.00
Goodman Center Thanksgiving	\$136.00
Mining Alternatives (MAMA)	\$ 97.00

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group

(PJS – pronounced “pee-jays”) are now meeting on the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be Monday January 13th, 7 pm, at JRUUC. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email bwhitney@chi-squared.org.



An Update from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES -- an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state. From four angles we are working to decrease the Wisconsin prison population. We recently participated in an action calling on the Governor's office to address the issues facing "Old Law" prisoners.

Ways to learn more MOSES and the state-wide organization, WISDOM:

- 1) Check out the **MOSES yearbook** in the JRUUC lobby (and look for the ad for our congregation)!
- 2) **Attend a special MOSES/WISDOM training January 11th from 9-noon** at Lake Edge Lutheran Church (replacing the regular MOSES meeting). Training will be followed at noon by an hour-long brown bag lunch discussion for board reps. and all interested others, to evaluate work of the past year, share ideas, and more. It will be a training useful both to those who have attended previous trainings and to those who are new to MOSES. To carpool or ask questions, contact Carin at cmbringe@gmail.com or see <http://mosesmadison.org/>.



Faith-Labor Breakfast
Increasing Our Compassion
Footprint: A Muslim perspective on economic and worker justice
Keynote Speaker: Dalia Mogahed
January 23, 2014 8 to 10 am at the
Madison Labor Temple
1602 South Park Street
<http://workerjustice.org/>
Register for \$25

LGBTQ In Faith Communities
"There is a Place for You"
Sunday afternoon, February 16th
1-5:30 pm at Union South
The Madison UU congregations are jointly sponsoring this event and will share a table of information

Registration is \$15
\$5 for those with limited income

Keynote Speaker:
The Rev. Everett Mitchell from
Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church

Membership



Meet New Member Ann Jamison

Ann writes: "I'm mother to Desmond and partner to Phil. We live on the west side of Madison with our grumpy Corgi. I have a day job testing software, but my real passion is improving maternal mental health outcomes. Last year, I helped found Madison Postpartum Peers, which provides peer support and resource referrals to new or expecting parents coping with mood or anxiety disorders. I love to knit, sew, sing, eat my husband's cooking, and watch reruns of The Mary Tyler Moore Show. My family felt an instant sense of community and warmth our first Sunday at Reeb. We love the heart, dedication, and spirit of seeking that we've found here. I'm so happy to be a new member!"



Meet New Member Elaine Pridgen

Elaine has passionately sung truth to power at the Solidarity Sing Along nearly every weekday for over 1 ½ years. She works two blocks from the Capitol writing administrative rules for the Department of Children and Families. Her favorite things about JRUUC are the strong commitment to intentional community, the emphasis on working for social justice, and the choir's ability to sound awesome while accommodating a beginner.

Stewardship Stirrings

We just finished celebrating our congregation's twenty years of existence and are looking forward to a very bright future. This is an excellent time to consider stewardship beyond fundraising, supporting Reeb for the long haul rather than the year ahead.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has determined that an important component of the long-term well-being of any congregation is a **reserve** of funds that ensures financial stability. If large enough, its interest can also provide support for special social projects. The UUA considers this **endowment fund** or **planned giving fund** one of the pillars necessary for the congregation's long-term health. Until recently, Reeb has never had such a fund, but a wonderful anonymous donor has started one by a donation that will serve as seed money for our endowment.

In the long term, the endowment fund should be financed by such unexpected gifts through which donors support the long-term health of Reeb. If the congregation approves, the fund will be administered by a committee established through an Enabling Resolution that will provide details. Significant gifts might well arise from legacies of congregants. We will keep you informed of emerging plans on this subject, but meanwhile, let us celebrate what a generous congregant has donated to get us started.

John Mathis, Stewardship team



Are You a Fair-share Giver?

SAVE THE DATE!

Appreciation Reception for

Fair Share Givers

7 pm Friday, February 7th

at Prairie UU Society

for more information, contact
Beth Esser at beth_esser@hotmail.com



From the Office

Happy New Year, Everyone! I just found out that Big Oak Child Care Center will be here until January 24th due to rats eating the electrical wiring in their new space! They certainly have had their share of delays, but it will be all over soon. I will miss seeing cute little children being pushed out the door in a stroller the size of a Prius or holding a rope while heading out for a walk or waving good-bye as they leave for the day.

Thanks to everyone for your support and assistance during this challenging and wonderful time, especially the Rev. Marlene and Kim Reain.

Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth

Music Notes



A New Year and New Music

Hello and blessings to all!
The choir will begin working on new music with commonly favored themes of peace, love, nature, one's calling and the joy of music. "Deep Peace" is adapted from an old Gaelic blessing; and "Love's Philosophy" from the words of Percy Bysshe Shelley.

There will be additional new titles over the upcoming months and I hope that the music will inspire you on your journey through 2014.

Live with intention. Walk to the edge.
Listen Hard. Practice wellness.
Play with abandon. Laugh.
Choose with no regret.
Continue to learn.
Appreciate your friends.
Do what you love.
Live as if this is all there is.

-Mary Anne Radmacher

Plan ahead for the White Privilege Conference In Madison March 26-29, 2014

<http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/>

What is the White Privilege Conference?

WPC is a conference that examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team-building strategies to work toward a more equitable world. WPC is a conference designed to examine issues of privilege beyond skin color. WPC is open to everyone and invites diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive look at issues of privilege including: race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, etc. — the ways we all experience some form of privilege, and how we're all affected by that privilege.

WPC attracts students, professionals, activists, parents, and community leaders/members from diverse perspectives. WPC welcomes folks with varying levels of experience addressing issues of diversity, cultural competency, and multiculturalism.

WPC is committed to a philosophy of "understanding, respecting and connecting."

Who attends the WPC?

The conference is unique in its ability to bring together high school and college students, teachers, university faculty and higher education professionals, nonprofit staff, activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, and members of the spiritual community and corporate arena. Annually, more than 1,500 attend from more than 35 states, Australia, Bermuda, Canada, and Germany.



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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.

