

EAST BREEZE

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

Volume 23, Number 2— February 2014

In The Interim

Ah, February! The month of love, of cupid, of chocolates and roses. The shortest month of the year that, at least to me, often feels like the longest as I begin to wait expectantly for spring to come.

February too is a month of focus on justice. The Standing on the Side of Love Campaign (check out the website at standingonthesideoflove.org) is our commitment to a public witness that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It was first used in Massachusetts during the efforts for marriage equality and in California in response to Proposition 8. The campaign really took hold following the 2008 shootings at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, targeted by the shooter because they are welcoming to LGBT people and have a liberal stance on many issues. Since then the SSL Campaign has brought love's power to challenging exclusion, oppression and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity on many occasions and in many places.

This month is also the Standing on the Side of Love's "30 Days of Love" campaign. There is information on the SSL website and on our JRUUC Facebook page about how we can make Standing on the Side of Love part of our daily lives.

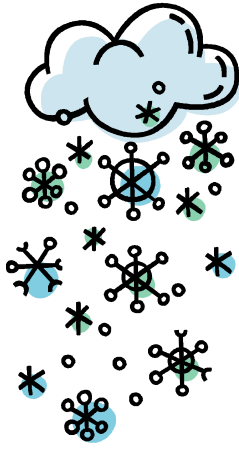
So this February while we are thinking about cupid and chocolates and anticipating the real arrival of spring let's really be thinking about love. Let's be thinking about what it means to Stand on the Side of Love and why our Unitarian Universalist faith demands of us that we do so. And do check out that website and see all the ways that we can and do Stand on the Side of Love.

Blessings,
Marlene

<http://standingonthesideoflove.org/mass-moral-march-saturday-february-8th-2014-raleigh-nc/>

February Services

- 2/2 "Love Globally, Act Locally"**
Carin Bringelson
On this 16th day of the "Thirty Days of Love" Campaign organized by the Unitarian Universalist Association's Standing on the Side of Love community, how might we plug into the work of MOSES, the local interfaith coalition of which JRUUC is a part?
- 2/9 "Still Marching"**
The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker
Interim Minister
On this weekend hundreds, if not thousands, of Unitarian Universalists are joining the Mass Moral March in Raleigh, NC. The call has gone out to all UUs to Stand on the Side of Love and join this March. What is this March about, how can we be part of it even if we are not in NC and why is it so important that we are still marching?
- 2/16 "Standing on the Side of Love: Intergenerational Fair"**
Caroline Hardin and the RE Committee
Join us for activities based on our work for justice and equality. As a special bonus, we will watch the 20th Anniversary video created by our youth.
- 2/23 "Living the Questions"**
The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker
Interim Minister
A few years ago an evangelical minister, Rob Bell, published a book titled *Love Wins*. His book caused a significant uproar among evangelical and conservative theologians. Why? They claimed he was promoting the heresy of Universalism. What is it about our Universalist heritage and faith that insists that we Stand on the Side of Love? And most importantly does love really win?



President's Note: **Sarah's Snow Day**

More snowflakes are drifting down from the sky, and the wind chill warnings are back. Seems like a good time to stay in, slow down, and turn inward. And yet....

And yet, all throughout Reeb are stirrings of anticipation and excitement. Our annual budget drive is gearing up. Our ministerial search committee is interviewing potential candidates. With the departure of Big Oak Child Care, RE is reclaiming and re-envisioning its space. Our young people are preparing an anniversary video. Appreciative inquiry is shaping our collective vision.

Zest! I love this word for exuberance or energetic joy. Ours is a religion that promotes a zest for life. Even as we acknowledge the times for grief or quiet withdrawal, in the words of English Unitarian Matthew Smith we have "an enthusiasm for Life as something immeasurably precious — well worth celebrating in words, song and silence." Board members at a recent meeting agreed that JRUUC has zest in abundance.

What's with all this zest in a season for turning inward? Perhaps exuberance and contemplation are parts of one process. The geysers at Yellowstone spew scalding water high into the air. Then they subside and seem to do nothing, while deep underground the water is gathering heat and energy for the next eruption. I relish each stage of the cycle and am grateful to all whose gifts of zest, reflection, or both enrich our beloved community.

Sarah Cook, President

December 2013 Financial Details

| | December | July 2013 to the present |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Income | \$22,841 | \$95,436 |
| Expenses | \$13,951 | \$85,631 |

Income for December 2013 was \$22,841 against expenses of \$13,951 giving us a surplus for the month of \$8,890. For the first half of the fiscal income is \$95,436 against expenses of \$85,631. The half year surplus is \$9,805.

There were several end-of-year extra contributions plus several members paid pledges in full. We think that cash flow will be steadier for the rest of the fiscal year because the monthly Electronic Funds Transfer deposit will increase to about \$6,900 beginning in February. Whereas a few members have stopped giving through EFT, several new members are paying pledges by EFT and one was an existing member who is now paying by the month instead of by lump sums.

Our average monthly expenses for the first half of the fiscal were just over \$14,000, so we will still need another \$7,000 each month to stay even. If this doesn't happen we will be drawing down our reserves between now and the end of June. I have once again started a spreadsheet to keep track of the burn rate on the reserves.

We will not have any more rental payments from Big Oak though our office administrator advises me she has been turning away other rentals over the time Big Oak has been with us so it's possible we may pick up some added income once they leave. Our income from miscellaneous rentals this fiscal is way below what we had budgeted. With Big Oak's income we are still ahead by a substantial amount.

Other items of note: We will be shifting funds allotted for paying the choir director to pay an accompanist so that won't save any income. Our snow plowing expenses will be substantially above the past few years because we have a new contractor and because (this won't come as a surprise) we've had more snowfalls this winter.

Art Hackett, Treasurer



Religious Education

New beginnings for Children and Youth Religious Education!

January 5th we welcomed back our children with an all-ages Guest at Your Table Kid Re-Konnection. We listened to a story about being connected within our diversity, and together made a symbolic loop of multi-colored yarn. Each child received a section of the loop and used it to make their own bracelet to take home.

January 12th was our Teacher Refresher brunch, during which RE volunteers learned about our new Letters Home project. This spring, children will receive a Letter Home each Sunday with information about what they learned in RE and ideas for extending the lesson into the week.

All of us in RE would like to welcome three new first-time volunteers: **Tim Cordon** and **Stephanie Thurow** as Pre-K Assistants, and **Grant Dobbe** as 6+ Teacher. We are excited to have you part of the team!

Coming up fast is February 16th's Intergenerational Fair. Our theme is Standing on the Side of Love. If you'd like to facilitate a session, contact me at re@jruuc.org. Many ideas and resources can be found at <http://standingonthesideoflove.org/>.

The 20th Anniversary Video will be unveiled at the IG Fair by our 6+ graders. After that, they will begin a new project: Club House. During this project, they will be re-imagining the youth group organization (club) and youth room (house). Through field trips, discussion, building furniture, designing and painting the walls they'll explore what it means to be in a youth group in terms of activity and space. We especially welcome youth who haven't come in a while to join in creating the RE space they want.

With Big Oak moving out February 1st, we will give *all* our RE rooms a lot of love and elbow grease during February 8th's Many Hands Coalition. Join us from 9 to 1 as we hang art, organize toys, and make our building beautiful and welcoming. Bring something for the potluck lunch

We look forward to all the new beginnings in 2014, both for our children and youth's RE program and our congregation as a whole.

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

Justice at JRUUC News, Announcements, & Volunteer Opportunities for Social Justice work



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. The worship service on Feb. 2nd will be dedicated to learning more about these MOSES initiatives.

Thanks go out to **Joan Kemble**, **Mary Anglim**, and **Carin Bringelson** for their participation in a MOSES training last month. The JRUUC Share the Plate offertory recently brought in **\$277** for MOSES. Thank you for your generosity!

Ways to learn more about 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 the monthly MOSES meetings on the 1st Saturday each month, 10am-12 at First Congregational Church.

To carpool or ask questions, contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com or see <http://mosesmadison.org/>

More Justice at JRUUC

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group

(PJS – pronounced “pee-jays”) are now meeting on the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm Monday February 10th at JRUUC. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night

Saturday Feb. 22nd

The 4th Saturday of each month is Sustainable Saturday Night at Reeb. Our February Sustainable Saturday will focus on food service social justice. Come at 6 pm for a potluck dinner followed by a talk by a representative of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central WI. We plan to have restaurant workers speak also. Rev. Marlene will preach about worker justice on March 2.

Get your copy of *Behind The Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman for book discussions on Sundays March 2 and March 9 following the worship service.

How do restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America? And how do poor working conditions-discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens-affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables? Saru Jayaraman, who launched the national restaurant workers' organization Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, sets out to answer these questions.

Purchase the book from Amazon by first going to our JRUUC website or purchase it from the UUA Bookstore. *Behind The Kitchen Door* is the 2013-14 UUA Common Read. The UUA Common Read gives diverse people a shared experience in order to have deep, meaningful conversations.

Will the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF) Divest from Fossil Fuels? A national group of UUs concerned about climate change has successfully gathered signatures to have a Divestment Resolution on the 2014 General Assembly agenda. The proposed resolution states that the UUCEF will divest from fossil fuels within five years while maintaining a minimum number of shares in select companies to utilize shareholder advocacy. The group gathered signatures from members at 92 congregations, representing 29 different states – JRUUC members included! Stay tuned to see the results from GA.

Giving Tree Generosity

Thank you to everyone for contributing to our giving tree. We were able to provide three families with gifts for every member of the family (that was 4 adults, 3 teenagers and 4 younger children). Gift certificates were given to each teenager and each family and the younger children each received at least two gifts. This was in addition to the winter coats provided for two adults

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 resource table

Keynote Speaker:

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

UU minister the Rev. Kelly Crocker Will be part of a panel discussion

Registration is \$15

\$5 for those with limited income

Free registration for Reebers who can help staff the UU resource table

contact Peggy Haack peggyhaack@gmail.com

Serving Breakfast to Homeless Men

The first Saturday of every month volunteers from the James Reeb Breakfast Crew join some volunteers from Prairie UU to prepare and serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs at the men's shelter in Grace Episcopal Church on the Square. We arrive bright and early at 5:00 a.m. and our work is complete by 7:30a.m., typically with grateful accolades from the men staying there. James Reeb has engaged in this community service since summer of 2008. Would you like to join the Breakfast Crew and take a turn? It feels good! If YES, contact Peggy Haack: peggyhaack@gmail.com or 244-8428.

Membership

Exploring Membership Class Saturday March 29th!

Newcomers and old-timers alike are invited to participate in a fun-filled class about being a member of JRUUC **Saturday, March 29th, 10 am - 3 pm** in our sanctuary. Inspired by one another, we'll explore what we hold sacred, Unitarian Universalism, gems about JRUUC, and expectations of membership. Lunch, child care, and some memory-making fun will all be provided! Please RSVP by Mon. March 17th to Membership Committee Chair, Jocie Luglio: jocillator@hotmail.com or 608-442-8814.



Stephanie Thurow



Rene Simon

Rene Simon and Stephanie Thurow are partners of over four years who are so very grateful to have found a spiritual home in JRUUC. Stephanie and Rene both work in the health insurance field and are perhaps more familiar with PPACA and the Affordable Care Act than the average person might care to be. Their home is filled to the brim with vivacious 12-year-old Noelle, who is in 6th grade at WIVA online public school, and spends most of her time dancing -- either at home or at Monona Academy of Dance. The family is rounded out by their miniature schnauzer, Minnie, their cat, Echo, and their crested gecko, Dude. Rene and Stephanie are happily engaged and looking forward to a big traditional wedding to be held at JRUUC sometime in the next 18 months!



Many Thanks to our Snow Lottery winners who have shoveled two or more times per snowfall because of all the wind! If you enjoy a good workout, sign up for a week on the clipboard in the Narthex.

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 Bringelson at cmbringel@gmail.com



From the Office

Thank God/dess January is over! As I write this, I'm hearing the SHRRR of tape being pulled from a roll as Big Oak staff shuts their full boxes to be ready to move out. I mailed W-2 forms to both Julie Cross and Chuck Philyaw and finished all the other end-of-year employer tax returns. The 990-T form we will need to file for "unrelated" income is not due until spring.

Have you noticed all the upcoming conferences and social witnessing opportunities? It is difficult to choose amongst them, given time and financial issues. I definitely plan to attend the White Privilege Conference, which has workshops for people of all races and backgrounds. If you would like to attend but cannot afford the registration fee, think of applying to be a volunteer.

Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth

Stewardship Stirrings

Save the Date for Take Flight
Saturday, March 8th from 6-8 pm
Annual Budget Drive Kick-off

Dinner
Fun with "Speed Pledging"!
Connect with fellow Reeb members
as our congregation "Takes Flight"

More informatito follow.
Questions contact
Shaili Pfeiffer 241-0884
Ruth Flanagan 206-8809



Who Are Our Neighbors?

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY
**Friday, February 28th - Saturday
March 1st**

Growing and deepening our capacity for successful multicultural ministries and stronger intercultural relationships is critical to the fulfillment of our vision for Unitarian Universalism and building the beloved community. In these days of increasing complexity in diversity in our world, and our congregations, learning how to work more effectively with people who are different than us is important-we need to develop skills and attitudes that assist us in getting where we want to go.

We invite you to bring a team from your congregation to explore how we can cross the divide between differences that make a difference. You will learn a framework for understanding your competency, and how to enhance your own skills, insights in the multiple components of conflict, and how to move the work forward in your congregation.

The workshop will be held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois. Cost will be \$50 per person, and includes Friday and Saturday evening snacks, Saturday morning and afternoon snacks, and Saturday lunch.

Registration will be capped at 80 to allow for better learning and interaction.

More details can be found on our website at <http://midamericauua.org/events/calendar2/event-detail/171/-/who-are-our-neighbors-intercultural-competency-evanston-il> , or by contacting Lisa Presley, lpresley@uua.org.

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.

Registration is now open at:
<https://www.regonline.com/Register/>

Apply to be a volunteer at:
<http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/volunteers.html>



MidAmerica Regional Assembly

One conference in four locations

Wausau, Wisconsin

Friday April 11- Saturday April 12

Justice Workshops

Worship, sing together

Community Social Action Event

Keynote address (Live Streamed Video): Paul Rasor, *“Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square*

The Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor is director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College. An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, he earned his Ph.D. in theology from Harvard Divinity School; he also holds degrees in music and law from the University of Michigan.

He is the author of *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the Twenty-first Century* (Skinner House Books, 2005).

General Assembly 2014 **June 25-29, Providence RI** **Love Reaches Out**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

Most General Assembly events will be held in the Rhode Island Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Religious life in America is changing dramatically and rapidly. Fewer people are identifying with specific denominations and most mainline religions are losing members in droves. People now find many outlets and places of engagement for their spiritual lives. Current studies of faith in America show that there is a movement toward a liberal, fluid kind of faith that doesn't fit with traditional denominational identity and structure. We already know that for every adult member of Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, there are at least three non-members who also consider themselves to be Unitarian Universalists.

A core purpose of our faith is to help people grow in spirit and in service. We believe that our faith provides a path for each of us to unlock our transformational capacity to serve the world with love. We want to expand our faith not just to grow Unitarian Universalism, but also to better achieve this transformational purpose. Therefore, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the UUA Board of Trustees and the Administration want the General Assembly in 2014 help our association live into a future where our “Love Reaches Out” to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls.



July 13-19, 2014

Summer is fast approaching!

**It's time to start making plans for
summer time family fun!**

**Come join us for good
Unitarian Universalist fellowship and a
relaxing week of village life...**

Bayside is a small (40-60 person) kid-centric family summer camp held at the Wesley Woods Conference Center the third week of July. Bayside offers adult workshops and worship services, with an emphasis on quality child care during the morning adult activities, and lots of free time in the afternoons for family fun and relaxation.

Founded in 1988, Bayside Camp aims to provide a nurturing "family" atmosphere for singles and families of all configurations and traditions.

Bayside Camp can be a great stress reducer. It's an affordable way for busy families to spend quality time together, and it is a great place for grandparents, aunts, and uncles to spend some precious moments with their favorite child.

<http://www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside/>



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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.