

# EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 23, Number 5— May 2014

## **In The Interim**

As I write my column this month you are preparing for candidating week with your ministerial candidate, Karen Quinlan, and I am off to Texas for a week of Interim Ministry training and the beginning of my search for my next interim ministry. We have come to a transition within the transition. This is the place all of our work has been leading up to and while it may seem like it has come suddenly we have been preparing for it since before my arrival.

I am so proud of the hard work you as a congregation, especially your leadership, have done over these past two years and I am excited about the future of JRUUC.

Yet, our work together is not quite done. Over the next several weeks my focus will be on assuring a smooth transition to your newly called minister and also a good ending to my ministry with you. Saying goodbye is often hard but it is so important to do well. It is often said that good new beginnings are built on good endings and I agree with that.

I encourage any of you who may have been putting off having a meeting with me to discuss anything from our interim time together to call or email me - you can even text me - to set up a time to meet, have coffee, go for a walk.

I know that as I prepare to leave I am aware of how much I have enjoyed my time here at Reeb and amongst all of you. I know that I will carry you in my heart as my journey takes me elsewhere and I know that a bit of my heart will remain here with this mighty fine congregation. May we all journey well.

Blessings,  
Rev. Marlene

## **May Services**

- 5/4 “What Can We Grow Together?”**  
**Karen Quinlan**  
**Ministerial Candidate**  
How do we create and live out our collective vision? Rachel Avery and the choir will provide the music. Afterward, the congregation will vote whether to call Karen as JRUUC’s next settled minister.
- 5/11 “The Care and Feeding of Ministers”**  
**The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker**  
**Interim Minister**  
What does it take to build a strong healthy relationship between a minister and a congregation? What kind of dance is the dance of ministry? Come and find out about the journey you have just embarked upon. Margaret Noll will provide the music.
- 5/18 “The Five Smooth Stones”**  
**The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker**  
**Interim Minister**  
The noted Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams described Liberal Religion as having five smooth stones. They have been summed up as Hope, Love, Justice for All, Courage and Resources both Human and Divine. Let’s explore the deeper meaning of these five smooth stones for our faith today! Margaret Noll will provide the music.
- 5/25 “In Memorium”**  
**Casper Sunn and the Threshold Singers**  
On this Memorial Day weekend Casper Sunn and the Threshold Singers will be joining us to share the work they do as we remember those who have gone. Look for more info on the Threshold Singers on page two.

**The Threshold Singers of Madison** sing healing and comforting songs for people who are seriously ill, dying or grieving. We sing at bedsides, in homes, hospitals, hospice centers, or care facilities, and at memorial programs.

Casper Sunn started the Threshold Singers of Madison on May 19, 2009, following the profound experience of singing at her mother's hospice bedside and witnessing the healing power of music for her mother, family and friends, other patients, the staff, and the singers themselves. Combining a lifelong love of music, interest in healing, experience as a social worker and composer, and a desire to share her gifts in service to others, Casper also used the training and inspiration of her mentors as the foundation for the Threshold Singers of Madison: the teachings of Hildegard of Bingen, Kay Gardner's *Music as Medicine* and "Women with Wings" singing circle, and the *Deep Listening* meditations of Pauline Oliveros.

The all-women Threshold Singers honor the ancient tradition of singing at the bedsides of people who are struggling: some with living, some with dying. The voice, as the original human instrument, is a true and gracious vehicle for compassion and comfort. The singers are provided an opportunity to share the sacred gifts of our voices at life's thresholds. When we are invited to a bedside, we visit in small groups. We invite families and caregivers to join us in song or to participate by listening. We choose songs to respond to musical taste, spiritual direction, and physical capacity. The songs may include rounds, chants, lullabies, hymns, spirituals, and choral music. The service is our gift; there is no charge. We gratefully accept donations for our ongoing expenses.

### **President's Note:** **Sarah's Springtime**

Along with excitement about our prospective minister, I am filled with a sense of abundance and gratitude this spring. Collectively we have what it takes to make our dreams come true. The time, talent, and treasure people bring to Reeb continually amaze me.

Time: While the Ministerial Search Committee and the Interim Transition Team gave countless hours to

seeing us through our transition, others stepped up to fill the places they vacated.

Talent: We revel in the building enhancements, photography, website, social media, Beatles music, youth video, good eats — thanks to the diverse talents of JRUUC members and friends.

Treasure: Shared stewardship has been generous enough to budget full MOSES dues for next year and support the work of our volunteers and staff. Our endowment lays groundwork for a strong future.

I am also grateful for the guidance Rev. Marlene has given us in doing the important work of this interim transition and for the new ministry that will start in September. Thank you, thank you all.

Sarah Cook, president

### **Rummage & Book Sale** **Saturday May 10th**

We welcome donations of books, household items, linens, office supplies, toys, hardware, kitchen items, knick-knacks and anything you have to donate that you think someone would like to buy. (No clothes.) Your donations may be brought to James Reeb any time after service on May 4 and during the week when the building is open.\* Store items in the preschool classroom off the Narthex. They may also be brought in between 5 and 9 pm Friday, May 9th.

We need volunteers to work Friday evening to set up, during the day on Saturday to assist with sales and at 2 pm on Saturday to pack up leftovers and take to St. Vincent de Paul. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**This year we will be adding a bake sale. Any donations of baked goods will be appreciated!** Please bring in Friday night or Saturday morning.

If you would like more info or have questions contact Cindy Rudd 6 08-244-8428 or ruddhaack@sbcglobal.net.

\*Our building is open while Elizabeth is in the office: Tuesday 1-5 pm, Wed. & Fri. 10 am – 5pm. It is a good idea to telephone first.

## March 2014 Financial Details

	March	July 2013 to the present
<b>Income</b>	\$ 8,477	\$132,638
<b>Expenses</b>	\$11,476	\$ 98,546

Income for the month of March was \$8,477 against expenses of \$11,476. The congregation has a \$6,000 surplus for the fiscal year to date.



## Many Hands Coalition and Building Improvements Update

**A big thank you** to the 15 volunteers who attended the April 2014 Many Hands Coalition! We fixed, repaired, painted, raked, cleaned, and dreamed.

**Please join** the Many Hands Coalition on the weekend of May 9 - 10 as we assist the Fun(d)raising Committee in hosting the Annual Rummage Sale. We will help on Friday afternoon with setup and also on Saturday with the Sale itself. There's something for everyone and many hands make light work.

**Beginning the week of May 5th** JRUUC will be hiring contractors to renovate the following areas:

**Youth room:** Exterior wall rebuild with window installation.

**Staff room:** Exterior wall rebuild with window installation.

**Gender neutral bathroom:** re-plastering, plumbing, and ceiling installation

**Library:** opening drywall to allow natural light.

**Nursery:** opening drywall to allow natural light.

The carpenter is Westring Construction (James Westring) and the mason is Fitchburg Masonry (Mike Faust). Please avoid any construction hazards and contact Art Hackett or Mark Lydon with any questions.

## New Members



Last fall Jessica and Nathanael Romick (and their 3-year-old son) were looking for an open-minded and supportive faith community that would be a good place for their growing family. They found cool people at Reeb where they are challenged to think in new ways and also find spiritual nourishment. They look forward to meeting more Reebers, making friends, and growing in the community. In the meantime, they will likely be outside sharing picnics with grilling plus enjoying their interests of photography, blogging, cooking, and gaming.



Jerry Sullivan began attending JRUUC recently because many friends had told him about the wonderful community that was right in his neighborhood. He found for himself that the people at Reeb are indeed welcoming, purposefully minded, and socially engaged. He's looking forward to meeting new folks, reflecting deeply, centering, and getting involved. As a landscape architect and regional planner, he works in the mapping sciences and also enjoys outdoor activities like camping, hiking, canoeing, and gardening.

## More New Members



Several years ago now (in 2011), Erik Saynich's sister Heike brought him to JRUUC where he found like-minded people and a place that his two kids really love. He enjoys the outdoors, including camping and gardening. He also enjoys reading and "thinking about everything." He's already gotten involved with teaching Religious Education at Reeb, and he looks forward to continuing in that capacity.



Laura Yin, who grew up in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, started coming to JRUUC four years ago since it was right down the street from her home. She enjoys the familial feel of Reeb and looks forward to seeing all the friendly faces every time she attends. She's been known to play her drum with the choir and work with the youth of Reeb. When she's not studying, she enjoys photography, music, and traveling.



When life lined up in 2010 so Timothy Cordon could start coming to JRUUC, he found warm and welcoming people. A lover of the natural world, biking, and hiking, he enjoys working for peace, justice, and sustainability. A people person who likes to hang out with family and friends, he's looking forward to growing closer to the Reeb community, standing together on the side of Love.

Please Save the Date  
**Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

For The Rev. Marlene's  
Farewell Party and Potluck  
following her last service



### From the Office

Recently, I was sick with some sort of flu bug (despite being vaccinated last fall) and made the mistake of coming to the office Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> while feeling ill. Usually, I am pretty careful not to work when I'm under the weather because I make too many mistakes. But I came in because of several urgent items: the Order of Service, bill paying and payroll, and our first quarter employer taxes.

Today, I'm re-committing to **never work when ill** as I finally mailed our correct federal employer tax form and payment to the IRS at 6:45 pm April 30th!  
Elizabeth Barrett, Office Administrator

## Stewardship Stirrings

### **Money! An Adult RE Opportunity!**

The Beatles sang truth to power with the line: "For I don't care too much for money, for money can't buy me love."

But money is a necessary and under-discussed part of our spiritual and not-so-spiritual lives. Which is why JRUUC will be hosting an Adult Religious Education program about money! Entitled "The Wi\$dom Path: Money, Spirit, and Life," we will together explore our attitudes and behaviors toward money in our everyday, spiritual, and congregational lives. The class consists of three informal, personal sessions guided by members of the Stewardship Team (Carin Bringelson, Beth Esser, and Mark Lydon):

**Sunday, June 1st @ 8am:** "Talking about Money"  
**Friday, June 6th @ 6pm:** "The Meaning of Money in Our Lives" (with potluck dinner)  
**Sunday, June 8th @ 8am:** "Cultural Lessons about Money and Wealth"

This class is designed to open a way for money to become less troublesome and more useful as a practical, life-giving tool. Note that this is not a fund-raiser nor will there be any requirements to disclose personal information!

**If you need Childcare,** it will be provided. Please rsvp by Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup>. A registration fee of \$5 covers the costs for the Sundays' refreshments. Scholarships are available by contacting the Stewardship Team.

## 2014-15 Pledgers

Anonymous  
Jane Aldrich\*  
Holly Anderson & Colleen Marsden\*†  
Mary Anglim & John Koch  
Rachel Avery & Terri Pepper\*  
Samuel & Jill Barasch  
Elizabeth Barrett\*  
Megan Barry-Luglio & Jocie Luglio\*†  
David Barton & Mary Wagner\*  
Carin Bringelson & Bev Buhr\*†  
Sharon Bogart & Art Hackett  
Lori Bose  
Nancy Buckwalter  
Sarah Cook\*†  
Susan Cook & Roger Pierson\*  
Jim Dew\*†

Grant Dobbe & Caroline Hardin†  
Sue Dottl\*†  
Sarah & Steve Elmore  
Doug Erickson†  
Beth Esser & Derek Peterson\*†  
Carol Falk & Alan Johnson  
Ruth Flanagan & Andy Soth\*†  
Glen & Jan Gordon  
Peggy Haack & Cindy Rudd\*†  
Sarah Hallas & Laura Yin\*†  
Virginia Harrison\*†  
Suzanne Harp & Jeri Parrott  
Marcia Hayes & Elizabeth Marsh  
Rand Hill†  
Ann Jamison  
Barbara Jenkin  
Kirsten Johnson†  
Richard Johnson  
Kelly Kearns & Tom McClintock  
Joan & Tom Kemble\*†  
Thomas Lund†  
Mark & Jeanne Lydon\*†  
Carol & John Mathis  
Craig McComb & Leila Pine†  
Marla McFadden†  
Charles McNulty & Anna Rue†  
Molly Mitchell & Laura Zimmerman  
Colleen O'Hara\*  
Larry Orr  
Amy Owen  
Sandy Person\*†  
Shaili Pfeiffer\*  
Susan Podebradsky†  
Elaine Pridgen  
Laura Ragland†  
Kim & Dan Reain†  
Laura Reger  
Ian Riddell  
Erik Saynisch  
Heike Saynisch†  
Mary Schaper\*†  
Alice Shuman-Johnson  
Rene Simon & Stephanie Thurow  
Arthur Thexton  
Betsy Tuttle†  
Adam Tyksinski  
Marlene Walker  
Barbara Whitney\*  
Deb Wisniewski  
Hannah Kirby Zimmerman and Alex Zimmerman†

\*Fair Share Giver  
†Increased Financial Commitment  
Not all members & friends opted to have their fair share financial commitment publically recognized



# Justice at JRUUC

## News, Announcements, & Volunteer Opportunities for Social Justice work



### **An Update from MOSES**

The state legislature recently approved a \$1.5 million annual increase to the TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversions) fund. This builds on the \$1.5 increase that was approved in the summer of 2013. This means that, in the past year, funding has gone from \$1 million per year to \$4 million per year. Based on the past performance of TAD programs, we can conservatively estimate that the \$3 million/year increase will result in:

- At least 150 fewer prison admissions per year
- At least 850 fewer county jail admissions per year
- A net savings to Wisconsin taxpayers of at least \$3 million

1,000 fewer people will be incarcerated every year! (That is about the same as the number of people who gathered on the Capitol steps last March 14 to call on the legislature to increase TAD funding as a positive step in the 11x15 campaign goal of reducing our prison population.)

It is rare that we can see so clearly the positive impact of our work for justice. MOSES and the statewide WISDOM network would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has participated in any way in the 11x15 campaign, as an individual or as a congregational member of 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.

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

1. In the JRUUC lobby, read the MOSES yearbook and the booklet of letters from prisoners
2. Attend the monthly MOSES meetings on the 1st Sat. of every month, 10a-12n at First Congregational Church. Next ones are **May 3rd and June 7**. To carpool, contact Carin B. at [cmbringe@gmail.com](mailto:cmbringe@gmail.com)
3. Explore online resources, including...  
11 x 15 Campaign website: <http://prayforjusticeinwi.org/>  
MOSES Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mosesmadison/>  
MOSES website: <http://mosesmadison.org/>

### **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 Episcopalian Church on the Square. We arrive bright and early at 5 am; our work is complete by 7:30 am. Would you like to join the Breakfast Crew and take a turn? It feels good! Contact Peggy Haack: [peggyhaack@gmail.com](mailto:peggyhaack@gmail.com) or 244-8428.

### **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 May 12th at JRUUC. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at [bwhitney@chi-squared.org](mailto:bwhitney@chi-squared.org).

### **Sustainable Saturdays**

**The Fourth Sat. each month**  
**Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm at JRUUC**  
Potluck starts at about 6pm followed by socializing and a program  
Everyone is welcome  
For more information, contact  
Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633



## Charity to Solidarity in the Green Sanctuary Program

Doing environmental work guided by the defining elements of environmental justice shifts us beyond providing assistance, to thinking and working with negatively impacted communities. Some Unitarian Universalists (UUs) refer to this as a culture shift from “charity to solidarity.”

Environmental issues are inextricably linked to the crises of racism, classism and other forms of oppression. Generously supporting ‘less fortunate’ people is critical, yet charity can exacerbate the very oppressions we hope to redress. To broaden understanding and effort, environmentalists need cross- boundary partnerships to analyze, strategize and lead well-informed and just environmental work.

One way to think about this is a move from "charity to solidarity". For many this will be equivalent to a "culture shift," intentionally seeking multicultural partnerships. For some, it will be a new experience to take the lead from, and create Beloved Community with people most profoundly impacted by environmental injustices.

With environmental justice, there is no less insistence that the planet and its extraordinary diversity be honored, supported and restored; but environmental work must be grounded in the realities and in collaboration with those people most marginalized in our cultures.

People who identify as part of a marginalized community may be part of your congregation. If so, and they are willing, your projects will be enriched through a multicultural lens and leadership. Still, it is essential that the team reach out into the larger community across cultural boundaries to seek multiple perspectives experienced in the larger community, and to benefit from the wisdom and energies of those beyond the congregation.



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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.

