

# EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin  
Volume 23, Number 8— August 2014

## August Services

**8/3 "Addictions Large and Small"**  
**Leila Pine**  
We're all addicted to something...coffee, chocolate, television, the Internet, our smart phones. Some of us suffer from serious addictions to alcohol or other drugs, including prescription drugs. Many of us are broken-hearted by the drug or alcohol addictions of our friends or loved ones. But can a country or corporation have an addiction? We'll explore the impact of these personal and national addictions. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

**8/10 "Gender Identity and Gender Expression: Walking Towards Trouble"**  
**Bev Buhr & Barbara Whitney**  
On this weekend of Madison's LGBT Pride Fest, come explore how gender identity and expression impact our lives as individuals but also as a spiritual community. Rachel Avery will provide the music.

**8/17 "In Praise Of Animals"**  
**Mary Wagner**  
We are familiar with our seventh UU principle, to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. How familiar are we with the other parts of this web? We know animals as companions, sources of entertainment, even joy. Do we know animals as soulful beings? What are some of the characteristics of soulfulness, and how do animals demonstrate them? Doug Erickson and Molly Mitchell will provide the music.

**8/24 "Make Room For Youth"**

## **Malissa Springer & Molly Mitchell August for Youth**

What problems do unaccompanied or Homeless young people face in Madison? What can we do for them? Rachel Avery will provide the music

## **8/31 "Religious Education For a Lifetime"** **Caroline Hardin and the Religious Education Team**

This will be a multi-generational service exploring how to deepen our UU faith. Margaret Noll will provide the music



## **Sunday, August 10th**

**Stand on the Side of Love at the Pride Parade**  
JRUUC, Prairie UU, & First Unitarian folks will march together behind the Standing on Side of Love banner. **Parade line-up will be at the new Central Park. Here is the URL for the map of the route:**  
<http://www.lgbtoutreach.org/images/ParadeMap-edited.pdf>

### **At 2 pm the Parade to the Capitol begins:**

Williamson St. to King St &  
around the Capitol Square.

Everyone is welcome to Walk or Roll with us!

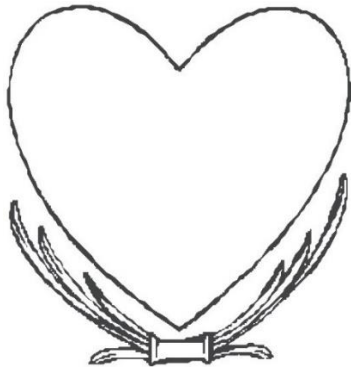
**What to wear:** A Standing on the Side of Love or JRUUC shirt. Don't have either?

Please wear a yellow or purple shirt.

Water and comfortable shoes recommended!

**Flags: If you would like to join our flag team to perform an easy routine,**

Please contact Elizabeth Barrett  
office@jruuc.org by Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>



## President's Column

Greetings members and friends of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation! I am in the beginning of the second year of my term on the Board of Trustees. My first year was as President-Elect and now I have stepped into the role as President. With this new role comes many opportunities to be vulnerable and to engage, a theme you may have heard me talking about when Sarah Cook and I led a Sunday Service on Leadership as a Spiritual Practice.

Our Seventh Principle reminds us that we are all part of the interconnected web of life. No one gets out of that. Brené Brown's research supports this. Because human beings are hard wired for connection, love and belonging are our hard stops. That connection is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives; whereas the absence of this leads to suffering.

Our First Principle reminds us that every last one of us is born with inherent worth and dignity. We are all worthy of love and belonging. Dr. Brown's research found that people are divided into two categories: 1. those who feel a deep sense of love and belonging (based on their belief of being worthy of love); 2. Those who struggle to feel this.

When we are able to show up, connect, and actively walk our talk while working through the unknown, making mistakes and being vulnerable, we inspire. We do not need to be perfect. Our good enough is real and our struggle is valuable. When we actively live out our principles and practice our beliefs publicly, we engage each other in our faith and our community.

In the upcoming months, we have many opportunities to practice our Beliefs and Principles as we transition and settle into the next chapter of our ministry with Karen Quinlan.

As we explore our ministry, we will be getting to know our edges. We will be looking at how we structure and govern our community. We will continue our work with Appreciative Inquiry as well as our Covenant of Right Relations. This is a living document that will need our attending and may need pruning and feeding. It will most certainly need our patience, as we explore our roles within this congregation and within the larger community and the UUA.

**Our engagement and willingness to come back to the table will continue to serve us well. We do not need to be perfect, just willing.** Our Principles and Beliefs are our guides. This is our spiritual home, together. Whatever we have, it will be what we built together. There is no other way.

-- Kim Reain, President of the BOT

## Financial Update 2013-14

June	July 2013 to June 2014	
<b>Income</b>	\$10,205	\$162,352
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 8,594	\$166,433

Figures are based on the end of year report from Church Windows with adjustments made for borrowing from Park Bank Line of Credit and corrections to the expenses for the minister's health and dental coverage.

Income for the month of June was 10,205 against expenses of \$8,594 for a net positive of just over \$1,600. The year to date numbers aren't as good with a net loss for the year of \$4,080. On the bright side, the \$12,000 we earned from Big Oak (which is not included in our operating budget) has improved our bank account.

Pledge contributions for the year were at 98 percent of budget. Non-pledge contributions were over budget, as was our plate collection, reducing the pledge shortfall.

Expenses which were above budget projections include ministerial health care, building maintenance (due to the severe winter and related building repairs/improvements) and utilities due to Big Oak's use of the building June 2013 through January 2014. The finance committee hopes that

utility costs will decrease when MG&E updates our monthly payments based on current use. But, we did not decrease the budget for 2014-15.

**Update on wall construction project:** The wall renovation work is complete. We wound up borrowing \$16,000 from the Park Bank Line of Credit of which around \$14,000, just what we projected the cost would be when we began the project.

**Mortgage Renewal:** We now have a new mortgage which includes \$16,000 to pay off the line of credit. Because our interest rate will drop half a percent, our monthly payment will stay the same. We plan to renew the line of credit to provide a source of funds to cover emergencies such as the ones we faced last winter. This year was the first time we borrowed against the LOC and we hope we won't have to again anytime soon.

Art Hackett, Board Treasurer



## **Religious Education**

It's been a beautiful summer for our Summer Fun Children & Youth Religious Education program to explore our topics of Trees and Music. If you haven't had a chance yet, check out the schedule at <http://bit.ly/summerRE2014>, and join me in saying thank you to our RE volunteers when you see them around Reeb.

September is fast approaching, so it's time to begin signing up for your fall RE volunteer spot. We have opportunities to fit all skills and schedules. Training is available for classroom volunteers! Join us at <http://bit.ly/revolunteer> and feel a fulfilling connection to our beloved community's children and youth.

An especially easy way to contribute to our RE

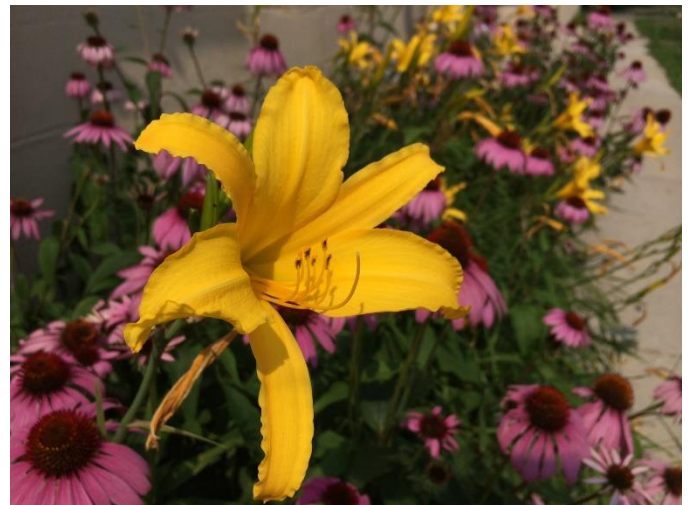
program is to pick up some craft supplies at the Back to School sales. We could especially use construction paper, glue sticks, school glue, safety lighters, and collage supplies (glitter, googly-eyes). Items can be brought to the RE desk or main office.

Alongside all these short-term plans, the RE committee and I are always thinking long-term and big picture. In July, the committee and I completed a rigorous four-hour RE retreat to tackle issues such as our mission and vision, goals for the coming year, volunteer support, and safety policy updates. Look for the results of this wonderfully productive meeting in upcoming newsletters and bulletin boards.

Please note that Cupcakes and Curriculum will be August 17<sup>th</sup> after the service. Teacher Orientation will be August 24<sup>th</sup> after the service!

Besides the above, we are very excited about our youth group. Our 6-8th graders are working to actualize the plans they made last spring to transform the room into a welcoming space. **Sunday, August 24th** they are inviting everyone to join them in the afternoon to help build furniture out of recycled pallet wood from 1-5 pm at the Bodgery, 200 S. Dickinson Street. They are also seeking the loan of cordless drills, sanders, safety goggles, work gloves (and snacks!).

Thank you also to everyone who did the RE survey! We will be working through your feedback the rest of the summer so as to make our Fall Religious Education program stronger.  
Caroline Hardin, Director of RE



Our Flowers on Fourth Street

## Lots of Membership Fun!

### It's Photo Directory Appointment Time!

Click the link below to sign up for your appointment to have your picture taken for JRUUC's new photo directory!

<https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/jamesreebunitariancongregationalchurch/index.php?page=10>

Photography will take place Tuesday September 9th and Wednesday the 10th between 2pm and 9pm.

Questions? Contact Molly at [molly.kathleen.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:molly.kathleen.mitchell@gmail.com). Remember, it's only a photo directory of members and friends if YOU are in it.

### **Greeter Training and Dessert 7 pm Monday, September 15th**

Are you a JRUUC member looking for a well-supported once a month commitment to help out our spiritual community? Become a greeter! New and seasoned members join together in teams of four to five to welcome everyone for our Sunday services for the church year. Any questions? Talk to the Membership Committee members: Jocie Luglio, Sarah Elmore, Molly Mitchell, and Carin Bringelson. Or email Jocie at [jocillator@hotmail.com](mailto:jocillator@hotmail.com) Mark your calendar now for this fun training and team sign-up evening Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>!

### **JRUUC Annual Campout at Lake Farm Group Camp site Saturday, September 20th**

Come one and all -- Friends & Members alike! Set up a tent and stay the night or come only for hiking, potluck dinner, campfire and songs. \$5 per/person who stays the night. Extra camping equipment can be rounded up if anyone needs to borrow gear. Look for sign-up in lobby in early September. Any questions- contact Sarah Elmore [sselmore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sselmore@sbcglobal.net) or 608-257-2712.

## Stewardship Stirrings

In June the Stewardship Team offered our first adult Religious Education course followed by a July 27th worship service reflecting on the same. The Unitarian Universalist Association curriculum called "The WISDOM Path: Money, Spirit, & Life" was designed to be offered as either a short, three course introduction, or a longer, twelve course class. The Stewardship Team offered the introductory course and were happy to welcome ten participants. Thank you to all those who shared their time with us, especially on a couple of early Sunday mornings!

Highlights included:

1. Sharing our personal financial autobiographies and how our early experiences with money have remained with us;
2. Realizing similarities in our visual depictions of the fundamental messages we have taken from our own culture about money;
3. Exploring different religious messages about money and hearing excerpts from UU sermons about money; and
4. Enjoying a wonderful potluck meal shared during the Friday evening class.

The Stewardship Team and participants had positive feedback and wish to continue the conversation by offering the entire twelve- part curriculum in the future to further our efforts to speak openly about a subject that is often fraught with unstated presumptions and unacknowledged tensions. Part of the goal of this curriculum is to offer a safe space for our congregation to discuss spiritually healthy approaches to money, generosity, economic justice, investment, and stewardship. We hope you'll join us on this journey! Learn more about stewardship at JRUUC: <http://www.jruuc.org/stewardship>.



August



# Justice at JRUUC

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



**The Social Justice Council (SJC) thanks Peggy Haack for her years of work on the SJC and for coordinating Share the Plate and the Men's Shelter Breakfasts.** Peggy is rotating off of the Council. Joan Kemble has been appointed to join existing SJC members Jim Dew and Kelly Kearns. Interested in getting involved? Peggy would like to have someone new take the lead on the shelter breakfasts. Let her know if you are interested in taking over or just cooking a breakfast occasionally. [peggyhaack@gmail.com](mailto:peggyhaack@gmail.com).

**Serving Breakfast to Homeless Men at Grace Episcopal downtown:** 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.

**Share the Plate:** August 24<sup>th</sup>, we will resume our practice of giving half the offering to designated non-profit organizations. We give half the cash as well as half the undesignated checks. If you pay your pledge with a check, be sure to write "Pledge" on the memo line. Our recipient for August 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> will be Make Room For Youth, a grass-roots coalition of service providers, local leaders, and volunteers who advocate for the needs of homeless and unaccompanied youth. In partnership with Briar Patch and other community agencies, MRFY works to provide daily hygiene needs, school supplies, safe shelter and services for teens who lack them. For more information see MRFY's facebook page, *Make-Room-for-Youth-MRFY*.

**It's time to start nominating worthy organizations for Share the Plate.** Any member or friend is encouraged to submit a nomination. Nominated organizations should do social justice, environmental, peace or other work that is in keeping with the UU principles. Preference is given to local organizations over national groups, and to organization that JRUUC members or friends are connected to in some way. Nominating forms will be in the lobby throughout August.

### **WISDOM's Day of Action July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Several members of Reeb were among about 125 people from around the state who attended the Day of Action at the State Capital. WISDOM is a faith-based state-wide organization working on criminal justice reform and other social problems. MOSES is the WISDOM chapter in the Madison area.

We held a press conference and attended the monthly meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to testify on the issue of parole for prisoners convicted before 2000. Before the Truth in Sentencing law that took effect in 2000, judges set sentences assuming that the convicted individual would become eligible for parole after serving about 25% of his/her sentence. In recent years, however, the number of actual paroles granted has dwindled to almost zero. Almost 3,000 "old law" prisoners are being denied parole that might have been routine before Truth in Sentencing. Not only does this practice create new penalties not contemplated by the sentencing judge, but it costs tax-payers \$95 million per year.

WISDOM members told Secretary of Corrections Edward Wall, Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, and other members of the CJCC about the impact of the loss of parole on families and prisoners themselves.

The Rev. Kate Edwards, a Buddhist prison chaplain, gave moving testimony about the suffering of prisoners, many with mental illness, who are condemned to lengthy periods in solitary confinement. Currently thousands of men in Wisconsin prisons have served more than 30 days in "segregation" and 118 have served more than two years. Under U.N. standards, she said, solitary confinement for more than 15 days constitute torture.

The CJCC heard testimony from everyone who wished to speak and the meeting was courteous on both sides. Secretary Wall acknowledged that

solitary confinement policy needs study although he also insisted that there is no alternative for some dangerous prisoners. We left feeling inspired by the eloquent testimony but realizing that reform is far from won.

WISDOM got excellent press coverage for the event. You can see testimony and read more at [mosesmadison.org](http://mosesmadison.org), or talk with JRUC members **Mary Anglim, Carin Bringelson, Joan Kemble, Leila Pine, or Barb Whitney.**

Please save the date for the MOSES annual fundraising dinner: **Saturday, Nov. 8,** at Zion City International Ministries, 1317 Applegate Rd.

### **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 August 11th at JRUC. 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 August 23<sup>rd</sup> 6-9 pm at JRUC**

3:30 pm: Action-taking

5:30 pm: Potluck set-up

6 pm: Eat

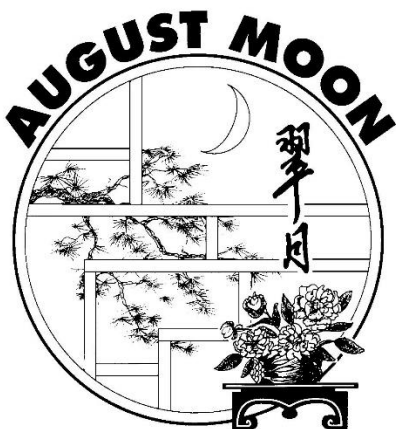
7pm: Program and Community-building

Highlighting programs for youth in Madison

Everyone is welcome

For more information, contact

Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633



### **Bayside Unitarian Universalist Family Camp**

My daughter Ellie and I spent the third week in July with other Midwestern UUs at Bayside family camp located at Wesley Woods Conference Center on the shores of Geneva Lake in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

Many families with children (ages 0–18) as well as individuals who came without partners and/or children made up the 60 or so campers this year. I very much enjoyed the fellowship, conversation, group activities, and workshops — as well as the free time and casual interactions at Bayside.

Ellie had even more fun than I did. Within hours after we arrived, she became part of the group of a dozen or so tweens and teens. She traveled in their fun-loving, active pack for the rest of the week. Something we adults noticed and admired most about the youth was how caring and attentive they were toward the younger and youngest among us.

The lodgings consist of cabins and cottages with bunk beds, bathrooms, and common spaces, and the main lodge houses the full-service dining and group gathering space. Throughout the grounds there are plenty of hammocks, picnic tables, fire circles, and green spaces, as well as a children’s play area and sand volleyball court. The waterfront includes a beach, swimming area, dock, and sailboats, kayaks and canoes for camp use. There is even a pontoon boat available for group cruises! Children can join adults for fishing each morning.

Bayside will publicize their July 2015 camp beginning next spring!

-- Virginia Harrison



## From the Office

I came back from General Assembly in Providence totally energized and with an even stronger sense of my Unitarian Universalist faith. GA was especially gratifying this year because it is clear that our religious movement is maturing. The theme "Love Reaches Out" lent itself to worship services and workshops alike that asked us to look outward and find our commonality with those who believe as we do, and those who do not. We must do this in an effort to collectively work for change from within and outside our faith communities, stepping out of our comfortable congregational settings and "walking towards trouble." To reach out in love, we have to set aside philosophical and religious differences and work to correct injustices wherever and with whomever else is fighting them.

This year's Ware Lecture was by the dynamic and funny Sister Simone Campbell. She is the one who told us to walk toward trouble. She also said:

"What I have discovered, is that if you walk towards community, we become deeply aware of the truth that we're in this together. That we are not separate, that there is no real discernible difference when you get right down to it... We may have different stories to tell, but it's the same hunger, the same desire, the same passion to make a difference in our world, to care for our family, to be who we are called to be."

The 2014 delegates chose Combatting Escalating Inequality as the next Congregational Study-Action Issue for four years of study, reflection and action.

You can see a lot of General Assembly online. I highly recommend gathering friends and family to watch a worship service or two, because they were amazing. Look for Karen Quinlan during the Service of Living Tradition. She walked across the stage to receive preliminary fellowship in the UU ministry. <http://uua.org/ga/virtual/2014/index.shtml>

August is such a busy month. I'm going on vacation August 20-25, heading to Wildwood Retreat Center and having a birthday August 29<sup>th</sup> while at Upham Woods for the weekend with a group of UUs. Before that, I'm going nuts trying to keep up with everything here at work while helping to organize our UU presence at August 10<sup>th</sup> Pride Parade. See you there!

Elizabeth Barrett, Office Administrator

## Reeb Rave

### **Volunteers Are Needed Now for REEB RAVE, Our Annual Dinner, Auction, & Celebration**

If you enjoyed Reeb Rave's "Beatles" performances, dinner and auction last year, please consider helping us make this year's Reeb Rave even better and more successful!

If you're willing to take on even just one finite assignment for this really fun event **please come to a short, initial planning meeting following the Sunday service on August 24th**, or e-mail Leila Pine at [sabinosanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:sabinosanctuary@gmail.com)

Never been to the Rave but would like to help? We'd love to have you! Mark your calendar now for our first planning meeting!

**Reeb Rave will be Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>!**

### **Check out the new, improved Building Use Calendar at:**

**<http://www.brownbearsw.com/cal/jruuc>**

We have so much going on that we may not be able to host Proud Theater for 2014-15. Proud Theater is an LGBTQ-friendly theater group for youth that also serves as a safe community and support group.

<http://www.proudtheater.org/>

# T-shirt evangelism

Wearing my Standing on the Side of Love shirt tells the world, including me, what I stand for.

By the Rev. Meg Riley

There was a time when the mere sight of a bright yellow [“Standing on the Side of Love” T-shirt](#) on a person in front of me could set my heart to racing. That person might turn out to be sporting the colors of a soccer team or union or school, but I always hoped to see the familiar shirt that said I was meeting a kindred spirit.

Nowadays, several of those unbecoming goldenrod shirts later, I think of my SSL shirt as a “working shirt.” I put it on when I have something to say or do, to bring more love where love has been violated. Wearing it grounds me when I’m afraid, helps me remember that I’m not alone, and tells the world, including me, what I stand for.

Whether it’s the chalice to bring warmth and light, or a broken chalk heart to bring care to the places that need healing, putting on a T-shirt and walking around in it can be a spiritual practice.

Years ago I had a T-shirt that read “Respecting the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person,” with a beautiful graphic of a chalice that looked like a pink triangle, and the words “Unitarian Universalist” written somewhere on there. I wore it because I loved the graphic. I didn’t think much about those words.

One day, I was rushing onto an airplane in a state of utter stress. I had almost missed my 7 p.m. plane because at 3:30 I’d unexpectedly decided to put in an offer to buy a house in a new city, and things got a little rushed. I was relieved that I’d made it to the plane on time and was thinking about nothing but getting into a seat to collapse.

As the guy took my ticket before I walked down the tarmac, he said, “Huh. Respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. You haven’t even looked at me!” Startled, I looked up at him—this tired, uniformed man having repetitive conversations with half-conscious people like me all day. “Thank you!” I said. “You’re right! How terrible of me!” We laughed, and I boarded the plane, suddenly revived.

Many religious people, lay and ordained, wear their faith. Whether a cross, a yarmulke, a turban, or hijab, many people are visibly identified with their faith. That identification holds them accountable to what they care most about, reminds them who they are and whose they are. Though I put on a clerical collar for public events, most of the time, it turns out that a T-shirt is most likely to be my religious garb. May I wear it in good faith.

*This article appeared in the Summer 2014 issue of UU World (page 18). [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org)*



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Newsletter submissions may be emailed to [office@jruuc.org](mailto:office@jruuc.org). The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month at 5 pm. to 200 words. Please be careful not to include sensitive information.