

EAST BREEZE

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

Volume 23, Number 9 — September 2014

From the Minister

It's finally here! I'm finally here!

I'm thrilled to finally be in Madison! We're renting a lovely home in the Atwood Neighborhood. I've bought a bicycle and learned that I can ride to Reeb in 15 minutes. My daughter is excited to begin school, and my husband has landed a job in Fitchburg. And we've explored just enough for me to recognize in myself a sense of homecoming. Even though I've never lived here before, the energy I feel around appreciating the outdoors and living an engaged lifestyle gives me a deep sense of alignment with my surroundings – one I haven't really felt since leaving upstate New York 16 years ago.

All summer, I've been looking forward to beginning our ministry. Because this doesn't happen officially until September 1, I've been spending most of my time here simply settling in, learning about my new neighborhood. But I couldn't resist joining Reebers and other Madison Unitarian Universalists at the August 10th Pride Parade. I could feel a wonderful sense of energy and dedication that afternoon, and I'm excited about being part of the great momentum this congregation is experiencing!

During my first year of seminary, a very wise minister asked me about my goals in my ministry. I told her the places in which I felt called to make change in the world – equality and protection for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender siblings; compassion and justice for our Earth home; creating safe space for all people to speak their truths. She smiled gently, and told me her greatest learning in ministry – that all social issues are rooted in relationship, and it is in personal relationship that we are most effective in our work on these huge issues. This has become my greatest learning in ministry as well, and I sense that it is something that you also know.

So as I dive into the myriad of beautiful and worthy community efforts in which you are engaged, I will

dive also into the blessed and loving work of forming relationships with each of you. I believe it's not enough to be the person (hopefully) inspiring you from the pulpit on Sundays; in order for me to best enter shared ministry with this congregation, we have to get to know each other individually.

So please take me up on an invitation: come meet with me during office hours, or contact me to set up a time to take a walk together or share some time over coffee (or tea, etc.). It's time to get to know each other! Let's begin our shared journey intentionally, laying the foundation for a long and rich ministry together.

In faith and love,
Karen

Karen begins work Tuesday, September 2nd
Office hours for September: Wednesdays, noon-2:00 Thursdays 10:00-noon, 7:00-9:00 pm

Please call ahead so that I know you are coming and can let you in.

Contact Karen:

revkaren@jruuc.org

Call or text 219-221-3371

Karen is off Mondays and devotes Fridays to sermon-writing; she is available only for emergencies on those days.

September Services

9/7 “Love Rains Down: A Multigenerational Service”

Karen Quinlan

Please bring a small vial of water that symbolizes something special to you – perhaps a summer travel, perhaps a taste of home, perhaps a metaphor for something important in your life. We'll combine our waters in a ritual of ingathering, and reflect on water as a symbol of our emotional selves.

9/14 "I Do: Reflections on Covenant and Community"

Karen Quinlan

This congregation has done wonderful work in crafting a Covenant of Right Relations. How will you now live out your promises to yourselves, to each other, to your community, and to me? And what might it look like for your new minister to enter into this existing covenant?

9/21 "Reaping What We Sow"

Karen Quinlan

Many people in the Pagan community celebrate Mabon, the third harvest festival in the Wheel of the Year. We'll talk today about things we are harvesting in our lives, about our deep connections with our Earth home, and about our awareness of how our harvests impact that home.

9/28 "Service Sunday"

Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group

Join us for a brief worship service, then we'll head off into the community in multi-generational groups to provide acts of service. Options for activities will include helping clean up brush in Demetral Park, assisting our new neighbors at the Tiny Home Village, and assembling "Feel Good" bags for the residents of the Men's Shelter.



President's Column

In our desire to be accountable and fulfill our agreements, we can often find ourselves feeling obligated and bound rather than inspired and empowered. As I have been exploring leadership as a spiritual practice, I have realized the value in stepping out of my schedule and reassessing my goals. Why did I say yes to something to begin with? Why did I say no to other things?

Don't be afraid to say goodbye to commitments that no longer serve your goals and make room for new commitments that inspire you. The importance of rest and relaxation can be easily forgotten in the grind of day to day living and responsibilities. Nurture your spirit. Rekindle the fire in your belly. Engage in your Beloved Community.

September marks the beginning of our ministry with our minister Karen Quinlan, a time for us all to return to each other and our Beloved Community. And this wonderful newsletter, that Elizabeth Barrett creates for us every month, is filled with opportunities for relationship and community.

This month Karen Quinlan, Virginia Harrison and I will be attending a workshop offered by First Congregational United Church of Christ with Dan Hotchkiss, who authored *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*. This is a great opportunity right here in Madison and serendipitous for this next chapter of our congregation's life.

The members of the 2014-15 JRUUC Board of Trustees will attend a workshop at JRUUC led by Nancy Heege, a Congregational Consultant with the MidAmerica Region of the UUA. Nancy will be helping us get to know one and other, revisit and review the last year, and create our covenant for working together and set our goals.

The UUA's website, www.uua.org, has this to say about covenants: **Covenant is a foundational part of Congregational Polity and the Free Church. Where creeds or doctrines hold other faiths together, we are held together by our promises to one another.**

"Covenant" is Latin for "come together" and means a "solemn agreement" or "promise from the heart" regarding a course of action between parties.

Many congregations have Covenants of Right Relations which help clarify expectations and creating a safe environment for congregations.

But our congregational covenants also have a purpose essential to the practice of Unitarian Universalism: *Covenants are a deep, abiding promise between equals to partner with each other and that which is bigger than ourselves to work for a just and loving world.*

Below you will find our Covenant of Right Relations we created with Rev. Marlene Walker. Please take the time to read through both the introduction and each of the sections. What is missing? What needs clarifying? Is there a clearer, simpler way to say these things? This next church year we will explore this document, its value and place within our congregation and how we will maintain it as a living document.

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 and our Covenant of Right Relations, are our guides. This is our spiritual home, together. Whatever we have, it will be what we built together. There is no other way.

A little about me: A JRUUC member since 2004, I enjoy exploring leadership as a spiritual practice and find participating in this Beloved Community to be very rewarding. You can contact me at kim@reain.net or by calling 243-8621.

-- Kim Reain, President of the BOT

JRUUC Covenant of Right Relations

A covenant of right relations represents the promises we make to ourselves about how we want to treat each other. This is a document that will evolve over the years to meet the needs of our congregation but for now it stands as a reminder of our shared vision.

These promises cultivate an environment of courage and empathy. May they also be a source of renewal and inspiration as we continue to come together, working toward peace, justice and sustainability.

The members of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation value clear, direct and honest communication, showing respect for each other's point of view. We are committed to providing fair compensation and support for our staff. We strive for radical hospitality and acceptance of ourselves, our fellow members and our community. We have declared our intention to "Stand on the Side of Love."

Member to Self

I will:

- Be my best whole self; acting out of love and keeping an open mind.
- Have fun and enjoy the camaraderie of our congregation.
- Practice radical self-acceptance, giving attention to my deeper needs, motivations and limitations.
- Be generous with time, talent and treasure. Ask for and accept help and nourishment.
- Follow through on my commitments and take responsibility for my words and actions.
- Strive to find a balance that meets my own needs and those of the congregation.
- Actively explore my spirituality by experimenting and sharing my insights and values.
- Forgive myself and remember my intention to recommit after any breaks in the covenant.

Member to Member

I will:

- Practice radical kindness and act out of love.
- Welcome those with different abilities and challenges with compassion.
- Listen to others and share my own stories so that I may know and be known.
- Expect and accept differences in each person's truth or point of view. Find space for disagreement and work to find common ground.
- Communicate directly, with respect for others and speak only for myself.
- Assume good intentions with an open heart and forgive when needed.
- Respect each other's commitments, the value of their time, their need to set boundaries or say no. Lead when and how I am able.

- Attend and participate in services, events, meetings and initiatives within the congregation to the best of my ability.

Member to Leadership & BOT

I will:

- Get to know our leaders and their roles. Appreciate their time and effort.
- Accept and support change in leadership and in each member's level of involvement in the congregation.
- Give feedback to our leaders and bring my ideas, opinions and appreciation to share. Be willing to be part of the solution.
- Support our leaders with adequate resources and stay informed about the needs of our congregation.
- Assume good intentions and express disagreement honestly and respectfully.
- Trust that our leaders are doing their best work for our congregation and respect their decisions.
- Communicate directly and in a timely manner.
- Use the appropriate channels within our organization to pursue projects, requests or concerns.

Member to Minister

I will:

- Value and appreciate the Minister's gifts, experiences, and knowledge both professionally and personally.
- Acknowledge and accept the limitations and boundaries of the Minister's roles, responsibilities, and time both professionally and personally.
- Financially support the Minister with fair compensation, professional development and a safe and efficient work environment.
- Engage from a place of authenticity, assuming best intentions and avoiding triangulation, while honoring and respecting the appropriate channels to pursue projects, requests and concerns.

Member to Staff

I will:

- Value and appreciate the Staff's gifts, experiences, and knowledge both professionally and personally.
- Acknowledge and accept their professional limitations and boundaries of their roles, responsibilities and hours.
- Financially support the Staff with fair compensation, professional development and a safe and efficient work environment.
- Communicate directly and in a timely manner.
- Use the appropriate channels within our congregation to pursue projects, requests and concerns.
- Honor my commitments and contributions.

Member to Larger Community

I will:

- Work toward peace, justice and sustainability.
- Endorse and support our UU Principles and Values, encouraging others to do so as well.
- Participate in the wider UU community and activities, including General Assembly and Regional Meetings.
- Be a good steward of our building and grounds, creating an environment that is safe, sustainable and beautiful.
- Engage in Radical Hospitality with neighbors, visitors and faith based organizations.
- Participate and have a presence in community events, especially those that are supportive of UU Principles and Values.

Financial Update

July	Year to date	
Income	\$16,832	\$16,832
Expenses	\$13,977	\$13,977

Our first month of the 2014-15 "Congregation Year" went smoothly; however, we have incurred a number of expenses in August, a few related to Karen Quinlan's new laptop computer and payment of her moving expenses. You can help by keeping current with your 2014-15 pledge of financial support. If you cannot remember your pledge amount, please contact me at office@jruuc.org
Thanks!

Elizabeth J. Barrett, Office Administrator



Religious Education

After all the fun and adventure of summer, I've always looked forward to Fall as a time of re-connecting with friends and returning to focus on the joy of learning. Our beloved community has a rich harvest of learning programs planned for this fall.

Thank you everyone who attended Cupcakes and Curriculum! The votes were overwhelmingly in favor of addressing **Social Justice and Racial Diversity**. We look forward to helping our Religious E children explore how our UU values help us respond to these complicated topics in the

world around us. You can learn more about the curriculum and our RE program in general from our updated digital RE brochure:

<http://bit.ly/REbrochure> Paper copies are available from the RE resource table in the lobby.

A hearty Thank You to our outgoing Summer Fun RE teachers, who helped our children discover the wonder of "Trees and Music": Jocie Luglio, Eric Saynisch, Kelly Kearns, Suzanne Harp, Derek Peterson, Noelle, Anna Rue, Charlie McNulty, Ann Jamison, Stephanie Thurow, Laura Yin, Beth Esser, Catherine Stephens, Marla McFadden, Grant Dobbe, Soth/Flanagan Family, Heike Saynisch, Mary Wagner, Virginia Harrison, Laura Ragland, Joan and Tom Kemble. Kirsten Johnson, Jan Aldrich and Mary Schaper. You all are wonderful!

You also can help make the magic of learning come to life by joining us as an RE volunteer -- we still have two assistant spots open! Share two-three hours a month with our children by signing up here: <http://bit.ly/reteachers2014-15> or by emailing me at re@jruuc.org. Training, support resources, and fun are available to all our volunteers.

Please join me in welcoming our newest volunteers on our **RE Committee: Anna Rue, Stephanie Thurow, Pam and Jim Younger!** Their contributions of time and talent will help shape our RE program and we continue to grow, strengthen and enrich the JRUUC RE experience.

Finally, a reminder to parents to register children -- it's very important to our RE program organization, as well as being part of our safety plan! You can find a printable copy here: <http://bit.ly/RE2014-15Registration> or paper copies on the RE resource table in the lobby.

At this Back To School season, I couldn't be more excited to kick off the wonderful Fall RE program that you, as part of our beloved community, have made possible.

Caroline Hardin, Director of Religious Education

Do you have your Photo Directory Appointment Set up? If not, go here:

<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 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 Mark your calendar now for this fun training and team sign-up evening Sept. 15th!

**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. Sign-up in the lobby! Any questions- contact Sarah Elmore at sselmore@sbcglobal.net or 608-257-2712.

Stewardship Stirrings

**Back by Popular Demand!
The Wi\$dom Path Class: Part 2!**

The next three sessions of The Wi\$dom Path, an adult religious education program that explores our attitudes and behaviors toward money in our everyday, spiritual, and congregational lives, will be held at JRUUC:

- **Sun. Oct. 12th @ 8am:** "The Many Meanings of Money"
- **Fri. Oct. 17th @ 6pm:** "Money and Society" (with potluck dinner)
- **Sun. Oct. 19th @ 8am:** "A Network of Mutuality"

Register by Tuesday, October 7th

Email beth_esser@hotmail.com with the following information: Your name, phone number, email address, and the # of kids for which you're requesting child care (and their ages).

Registration fee of \$5 covers the costs for the Sundays' refreshments and can be paid at the first class. (Checks can be made out to "JRUUC" with "Adult RE" in the memo line.) Fee waivers are available, as we do not want anyone to avoid a class due to financial difficulty.

All are welcome! You do not need to have attended the first three sessions in order to participate. If interested in learning more about the first three sessions you can listen to the Stewardship Team's July 2014 worship service or review the curriculum on the UUA website. Details are available at: <http://www.jruuc.org/widom-path-part-two>

**Reeb Rave Meeting
Sunday, September 21**

Please join us and share your ideas at the next Reeb Rave planning session Sept. 21 after the service.

We will meet in the staff room just across from the men's restroom. Join in the fun and help us plan the best dinner/fundraiser/entertainment event of the year! Refreshments and iced tea provided

**Mark your Calendar:
Reeb Rave will be
Saturday, November 15th!**

Justice at JRUUC

News, Announcements, & Volunteer Opportunities for Social Justice Work

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. Peggy Haack 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

Please nominate a worthy organization 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 organizations that JRUUC members or friends are connected to in some way. Nominating forms will be in the lobby throughout August.



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.

Upcoming MOSES Events and Actions:

Saturday, Sept. 6th, 10am - 12noon: The monthly MOSES meeting will take place AT JRUUC THIS MONTH! (After that, they are back at First Congregational Church on the first Saturday.)

Wednesday, Oct. 1st, time TBA: The next statewide action as part of the Reform Now initiative will occur at the State Capitol building, focusing on reforming solitary confinement.

Friday, Nov. 7th, 5 - 9pm: The MOSES Annual Fundraiser at First Unitarian Society.

Questions? Contact Carin B. cmbringe@gmail.com

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 September 9th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturdays
The Fourth Sat. each month
Saturday September 27th at JRUUC

3:30 pm: Action-taking

5:30 pm: Potluck set-up

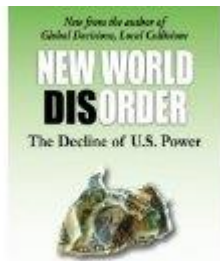
6 pm: Eat

7pm: Program and Community-building

Everyone is welcome

For more information, contact

Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633



David Ranney

New World Disorder Book Talk
Wednesday, September 24
7:00 – 8:30 pm at JRUUC

As the global crisis deepens, can we find a path to a system based on liberty, equality & sustainability that meet the needs of humanity and the planet?

Join us as Dave Ranney, author of *New World Disorder: The Decline of US Power* shares his thoughts about this question and more

Ranney is Professor Emeritus in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois Chicago. He has also been a factory worker, a labor and community organizer and an activist academic.

He is the author of four books and numerous articles and monographs on issues of employment, labor and community organizing, and U.S. trade policy.

Suggested donation: \$5 (benefits JRUUC) and/or donate a food pantry item.

To learn more about Dave Ranney, go to:
<http://www.david-ranney.com>

Many Hands Coalition Thanks!

A big thank you to the 10 volunteers who attended the August 2014 Many Hands Coalition! We cleaned chairs, weeded, painted, organized, installed carpeting, and celebrated fellowship. There truly was something for everyone as our intergeneration team spanned the ages from 2 to 70+. Thank you to all!

Art Hackett
Arthur Thexton
Carin Bringelson
Beth Esser
Derek Peterson
Heike Saynisch
Ila Esser
Larry Vincenski
Miles Peterson

The next Many Hands gathering is scheduled for **Saturday, October 11 from 9 am to 1 pm.**

All are welcome and invited to join.

Please bring a dish to share.

Mark Lydon, Safe Congregation & Facilities
Planning Committee



From the Office

Summer is almost over as I write this. The days are already noticeably shorter and my calendar is filling up with meetings, exercise class, and Meeting House Chorus rehearsal. Soon I hope to feel a fabulous coolness in the air. Perhaps I'll be able to wear a sweater someday!

This year, September is especially joyous due to the arrival of Karen Quinlan. Karen has already made a number of decisions, including choosing her wall color! Karen, Caroline, and I have a staff meeting set up with Nancy Heege, a Congregational Consultant with our MidAmerica Region. Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth J. Barrett, Office Administrator



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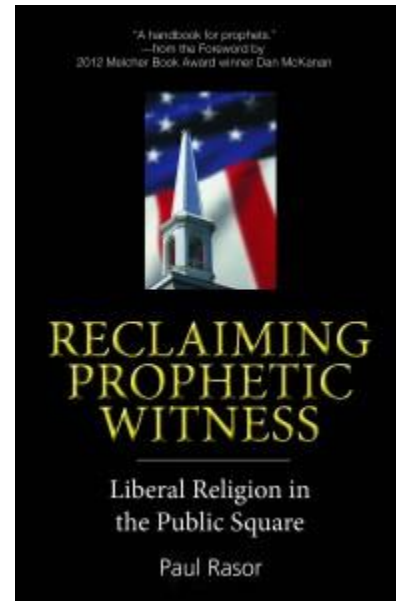
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East Breeze is published monthly by James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your mailing address, contact the newsletter editor (Office Administrator Elizabeth J. Barrett).

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.

Our UUA 2014-15 Common Read



The UUA Common Read began as part of long-range preparation for the 2012 “Justice” General Assembly. Margaret Regan’s *The Death of Josseline* (Beacon Press, 2010) was a perfect book to show UUs the issues facing people affected by immigration along the Arizona-Sonoma border. We decided to offer an annual Common Read, each year selecting a readable, relevant book for Unitarian Universalists to consider together. We committed to creating a discussion guide that would make the book a vehicle for adult faith development, inviting people to bring personal stories and UU values and theology into their response and sharing.

The selection committee includes both headquarters and field staff of the UUA, charged each year to discern the most useful and appealing offering for congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists. This year, we came to consensus on *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* by Paul Rasor (Skinner House Books, 2013). This elegantly written, 105-page book is a gem. Rasor observes that many liberals are uncomfortable with talking about our faith as the well from which spring our social justice commitments. The book includes insights from our theological heritage and our history that have bearing for us today, and calls us to prophetic, faith-based justice work.

Visit the UUA Common Read web page to learn more <http://www.uua.org/re/multigenerational/read/>