

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 1 — January 2015

From the Minister

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were full of wonder, joy, peace – whatever you needed.

I'm glad to be back after traveling home to spend holiday time with our families. And I'm looking forward to all the blessings – and challenges – that this year will bring for me and for us. I'll be going to a UU ministers' conference in February, to learn about active hope in the face of climate change from Joanna Macy and the Movement Generation. In March, I'm going to Selma and New Orleans to deepen my work as a white ally. The trip to Selma will be to mark the 50th anniversary of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign; New Orleans is the location for this year's Allies for Racial Equity conference, where we'll learn about environmental justice through workshops and field trips. I'm also looking forward to our Regional Assembly in April, which I'm hoping many of you will attend with me. And I'm eagerly anticipating being ordained by this congregation, and being installed as your minister!

I'm really pleased with our journey together so far, and I'm looking forward to our continued relationship and community-building. I'm working with our Board of Trustees to create a structure for our ministry and governance; and I'm working with other Reebers to create a pastoral/parish care system and to collaborate on planning and creating worship. You'll hear more about these efforts over the next few months – take me up on invitations to attend Listening Sessions; watch for information on new Chalice Circles that will be forming; and respond to a congregational survey that will help us discover our talents and what we're able to share with each other.

Look, too, for opportunities that our Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group and I will create, to help us deepen our understanding of what it means to be a congregation named after a white minister martyred in the Civil Rights Movement. Those of us who are going to Selma would like to share the preparation and the experience with you. And

there's a lot going on right here in Madison that calls us into solidarity with our neighbors of color. I look forward to figuring out where I can use my power and privilege to fight the inequities I'm learning about in my new home town, because my faith calls me to making our world safe and fair. Won't you join me?

In faith and love,
Karen

January 10 AM Sunday Services

- 1/4 “The Burning Bowl”**
Karen Quinlan, Minister
This week we begin our next circle around the sun together. During today's multi-generational service, we'll use a fire communion to ritually rid ourselves of some of our obstacles as we move forward into the New Year. Rachel Avery will provide the music.
- 1/11 “Flexibility And Grace”**
Karen Quinlan, Minister
Flexibility and grace allow movement to be smooth, fluid, and sometimes even effortless. How can we develop these traits in a spiritual sense, and how can they help us in our lives and our work in the world? Margaret Noll will provide the music.
- 1/18 “Movement-Building”**
Karen Quinlan, Minister
There are those who believe that the best way to fix the systems of oppression that are part of this country's infrastructure is to build movements to push back against them. Unitarians and Universalists have been part of this work for two hundred years. We'll learn about this history, and explore our parts in the continuing story. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

1/25 “Before And After” (Reeb Rave Sermon)

Karen Quinlan, Minister

Jan Gordon provided the creative spark for this service, in which we’ll explore the journey between then and now. What did we think we would be when we got to where we are now, and what has turned out different from our once-expectations of ourselves? Margaret Noll will provide the music.

Before we march forward, armed with resolutions that will shortly be forgotten in the day-to-day of living, let us notice what it is that remains every year, every day. What exists beyond schedules and months, beyond time. It welcomes us to life, not just at the start of the year, but every day. And let us answer . . . Amen Amanda Poppei

Listening Session with the Minister

11:30 Sunday, January 4th

Join Karen in her office for a small group meeting, where we’ll talk about our hopes and dreams for JRUUC. Reservations not required.

Karen’s Office hours for January

Wednesdays, 12:30-2:00pm

Thursdays 9:30-noon

Evening hours by appointment

Please call me ahead of time so I know you’re coming!



President’s Column

Happy New Year to all of you. 2014 will be exiting stage left while 2015 steps into the spotlight. Taking account of what we’ve been through and where we want to put our attention in the next year are part of many cultures’ traditions. This is a time to take stock and reckon accounts, finding balance for our lives. For some of us this requires quiet and reflection while others yearn for interactions and ceremony.

Let us pause to feel the spirit of life and love that ties us to each other, that winds its way through our very bones and settles in our hearts.

The members of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation’s Board of Trustees have been taking account, balancing numbers, evaluating what we’ve been doing and making many plans for 2015 and beyond. We are looking forward to a BOT workshop in January where we’ll work on our covenant with and between the minister as well as defining our Vision Statement and Mission.

Our Annual Budget Drive will begin in the next few months. We’ll be exploring the application for an additional Chalice Lighters Grant to assist us as we hire a new DRE and a new Choir/Music Director as well as paying fair share wages for all of our paid staff.

We are planning for our minister Karen’s Ordination/Installation Service and the celebration lunch that will follow. We’ll be hosting out of town guests, providing support as they visit our congregation and Madison. Of course, we are also preparing for our May Congregational Meeting.

We will continue to look at policies, procedures and structure through the lens of Governance (how we do things) and Ministry (why we do things). Can we organize ourselves with transparency? Can we organize ourselves in a way that is simple and easy to manage? We believe we can. We have several years of work ahead with many evaluations and strategizing to be done.

I hope you will join us as we’ll have many opportunities ahead for discussions about our future. In all things we do, may we remember why we come together to create community and what it means to value what each of us brings to the table. This is our spiritual home, together. Whatever we have, it will be what we built together. There is no other way.

Kim Reain, President

Meet and Greet, Sunday January 18

New and return Visitors are invited
To spend some time in conversation with
Each other, Membership Committee
members, and Minister Karen Quinlan,
Over coffee or tea and some special treats.
We'll gather near the piano at 11:30.



Religious Education

January is a busy month for Religious Education at JRUC! As I start my second full month as Acting DRE here at James Reeb, I am excited for all of the upcoming events and activities. We will start the month with a multigenerational burning bowl service on January 4th. You will get a second chance to bring in your Guest at Your Table Boxes Sunday, January 11th the same day as Kid re-Konnection Sunday! This is a great chance for kids of all ages to spend time together and reconnect after the winter holidays.

We begin RE classes again on January 18th with three new curricula from the Tapestry of Faith collection, Wonderful Welcome for pre-K through first grades, Moral Tales for second through fifth grades, and Amazing Grace for the sixth grade and up youth group. We are still looking for teachers and assistants for the Spring semester, particularly for the 6+ classroom and a general substitutes, so if you are looking for a way to deepen your connection to the congregation, or you haven't taught in a while I would love to hear from you.

JRUC is proud to regularly offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a sexuality education program created by the UUA. We will be offering 7-9th grade OWL once a month January-December 2015 with a break over the summer. If you have a young person who would be interested in participating in the program, please come to the **Parent Orientation on January 18th from 1-2:30pm**. Speaking of the youth, the youth room is nearing completion, with a brand new rainbow wall and Foosball table all ready for the next semester. If you have any questions please contact me at re@jruc.org

Sara Goodman
Acting Director of Religious Education

Financial Update

	November	Year to date
Income	\$21,897	\$70,484
Expenses	\$10,012	\$66,238

Income for November was \$21,897 which appears to be the strongest for that month in the history of the congregation. Some of that is due to the income from the Rave which is \$846 over budget. There will be some expenses but we still should be above budget even after those are taken out of the total income. Some of the money comes from advance payment of pledges. That often happens as the end of the tax year approaches. Last year's December income totaled over \$24,000.

Expenses for November were \$10,012 which is low. There didn't appear to be any anomalies with the major line items for the month so it may just be a drop in incidental expenses. We are now ahead for the fiscal year which is about where we should be according to the budget.

The finance committee discussed capital items which might come up in the future. Among the items mentioned are the repaving of the parking lot behind the building to improve drainage, replacement of the two furnaces for the lobby, classroom and office areas and replacement of the roof over the same areas. The furnaces are working fine but are over 20 years old. The roof is also in good shape with minor repairs done following last winter's ice problems. However it is at the end of its warranty period and we need to be aware of that fact.

Art Hackett, Treasurer

Adult RE **Introduction to Yin Yoga, A Spiritual Practice**

This class will include the practice of yin yoga poses, discussion of the 8 limbs of yoga, meditation, and mindful breathing practices. Led by JRUUC member Bev Buhr, it will **start on Jan. 14th and take place every Wednesday for 7 weeks from 11AM -12:15PM** in the JRUUC Sanctuary. Cost for JRUUC members is ½ price, paying only \$25 for all 7 sessions, or \$5 drop in. Scholarships/work exchanges are also available. This class is appropriate for all, regardless of yoga experience. See Bev or call her with questions: 608-239-2324. Register for the whole series by emailing bevobuhr@gmail.com by Wed. 1/7/15.

New Member Spot Light



Julia Cechvala

Julia started attending in 2012 because she was looking for a congregation in the neighborhood with a liberal faith tradition. Julia's dad grew up as a Unitarian Universalist and she thought the James Reeb congregation might be a good fit. At the moment, Julia dedicates most of her time to caring for her six-month-old son, Sam. Julia is also a writer and will return to her work as a tutor in the writing center at Madison College. Some of her passions are gardening, reading, and taking walks with her dog, Ernie. Julia enjoys coming to JRUUC because of the fabulous community that is so engaged and welcoming. She finds spiritual nourishment here and is looking forward to getting more involved in various aspects of worship and is excited to watch Sam grow up in the Reeb community.

Justice at JRUUC



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.

Recent Successes

- A fabulous **fundraising dinner and celebration** occurred in early November. See the annual yearbook in the lobby (and look for the JRUUC ad on the inside of the back cover).
- A **state-wide WISDOM action** was standing-room-only in early December. See the "11x15 Blueprint" in the lobby that outlines the concrete steps for ending Mass Incarceration in Wisconsin.
- **MOSES elections** for 2015 included Reeb member Bev Buhr being voted in as one of the Vice Presidents.

Upcoming Opportunities

- **Monthly meetings** at First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave. will happen on Saturdays January 10th and February 7th @ 10 am - 12 noon.
- The **WISDOM Annual Leadership Retreat** will happen on January 15-16 (Thursday noon to Friday noon) at Green Lake. Each of the ten WISDOM affiliates brings 4-6 people to this annual retreat. The cost of \$66 per person includes shared room, supper, social hour, and breakfast.

Questions? Contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com

Sustainable Saturdays **The Fourth Sat. each month**

January 24th at JRUC

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



Stewardship Stirrings: **Thanks for Fair Share**

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 January 12th All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

New Tai Chi & Range of Motion Class **9:30 to 11 AM Tuesdays, January 20th through** **March 31st in the Sanctuary**

Sarah Watts will lead this fun way to learn The Fundamental Form of Tai-Chi (simplified form of Tai Chi) which is good for improving balance, flexibility and strength. For anyone with a “maturing body,” this class is excellent for keeping the juices flowing and staying limber in joints. Please bring a blanket or yoga mat for floor stretches. Chairs are available for seated and standing movement. This is an opportunity to lift your arms and your spirits.

Free introductory Tai Chi & Range of Motion session Tuesday, January 13th 9:30 to 10:30 AM

(weather and travel permitting). Please bring a blanket or yoga mat for floor stretches. Chairs are available for seated and standing movement. There will be an introduction to mindful breathing, centering and moving meditation. This is an opportunity to lift your spirits, strengthen your body and keep your brain flexible.

Sarah is a retired Classroom Teacher & Massage Therapist with over 20 years’ experience leading classes in Range of Motion and Tai Chi. She leads classes at The Goodman Community Center and Bethel Lutheran Church. Contact Sarah with questions: 244 9424 or bbsw@aol.com .

Fair Share Givers are those JRUC members or friends who pledge to give 2-10% of their income to the congregation. (See the guide at: <http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/stewardship/fairshareguide.pdf>.) Using this Fair Share Giving Guide allows people to give according to their means and commitment. This is a more equitable system than, for example, a fixed dues system where all members pay the same level, regardless of their financial situation.

Last spring during the Annual Budget Drive, JRUC members and friends were asked to self-identify as Fair Share Givers if their financial commitment met the criteria. And now we’d like to formally thank those Fair Share Givers with an **Appreciation Reception on Friday, February 20th, 2015**. (If you consider yourself a Fair Share Giver but have not yet received an email with details, please contact Elizabeth at office@jruuc.org as soon as possible.)

Why do we celebrate Fair Share Giving? While all contributions to JRUC are appreciated, those who donate at a Fair Share level show a commitment to the vision of our Beloved Community. Technically, pledges make up over 80% of the income in our operating budget. Obviously, we truly depend upon our congregants to support JRUC at a level that is commensurate with their ability. Learn more about the Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide at:

<http://www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/budget/151840.shtml>



From the Office

Is it 2015 already? By the end of this month, all who have contributed monetarily to JRUUC within the past calendar year will receive a Donation Statement. All who have pledged will also receive a Pledge Statement. I will create both using a new version of our database and possibly working extra hours to get up to speed.

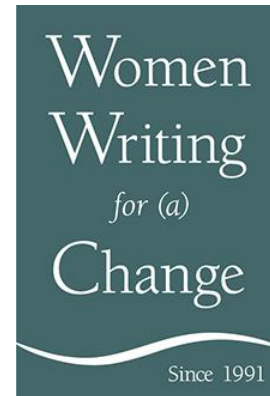
I hope you had a warm and wonderful holiday. May 2015 be a year of greater peace and justice.

Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth J. Barrett, Office Administrator

Winter WomanSpirit 2015 in Hartland WI



**Friday, February 6, 4:00pm to
Sunday, February 8, 12:00pm**



"The Call To Conscious Feminine Leadership"

Speaker: Mary Pierce Brosmer

Mary is a poet and social entrepreneur who dreamed, and then created Women Writing for (a) Change, a movement which supports the lives of women and girls who are working to commit life to language, in the belief that the truth of the feminine is a resource for healing and renewal of culture and nature.

Mary encourages women and girls to use the material of our lives to support the truth telling necessary for healing, inspiration and personal empowerment. From this form of personal soul transformation, life sustaining and life giving leadership in organizations, communities, workplaces and homes, can be born.

**Lake Country UU Church
Hartland, WI. 53029**

**(one half hour south of Milwaukee)
Early Registration \$150.00 until March 15.**

Register by going to:

<http://www.regonline.com/w2015>



SAVE THE DATE!

Appreciation Reception for
Fair Share Givers
Friday, February 20, 2015

See more information in the
"Stewardship Stirrings" article

If you have not received an
Email invite

Please contact
Elizabeth at office@jruuc.org



The
New Era
of
Unitarian
Universalism

Regional Assembly

2 0 1 5

April 17-19

**MidAmerica Regional Assembly
at the
Marriott Hotel in Naperville, IL**

**A Two & a Half Hour Drive
from Madison!!**

<http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly/1723-workshop-list-2015>

**Join the Living Legacy Project
Marching in the Arc of Justice
A Conference Honoring the
50th Anniversary of the
Selma Voting Rights Campaign
March 5-8, 2015**

Thousands of people will converge on Selma, Alabama, March 2015, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary Bridge Crossing. Join the Living Legacy Project as we invite Unitarian Universalists to Selma to honor martyrs Jimmie Lee Jackson, and Unitarian Universalists **James Reeb** and Viola Liuzzo, and to reflect with one another about what their courage and the courage of countless others require of us in 2015.

<http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/re-visiting-selma-2015.html>



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