

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 3 — March 2015

From the Minister

Generosity takes many forms here at JRUUC; and I'm grateful for all of them. I see so much generosity of spirit in your **welcome** of people of various backgrounds and experiences and capacities, in your **willingness to listen** to each other across differences and make sure all voices are heard, and in your **support and encouragement** as I seek out and bring back new perspectives. I see so much generosity of time and talent in your willingness to do the work of keeping our programs and events running well, the work of keeping our building functioning and safe, and the work of doing good in our community. And I have already seen much generosity of financial resources. Our Share the Plate collection consistently brings at least \$100 to each recipient, with the portion of the plate JRUUC keeps being about the same as the full plate used to be before we started sharing. This year's Reeb Rave brought in a record \$6,000. And you have collectively given about \$2,400 to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

These forms of generosity are intertwined. As we begin our Annual Budget Drive, I'm grateful to Heike Saynisch and Mary Wagner and the 24 Reebers who have agreed to be Visiting Stewards; their enormous generosity of spirit, time, and talent will help us meet our goal of 100% participation, and go a long way toward helping make sure we raise enough money to support our dreams. I'm grateful to our Stewardship Team, who keeps alive and current the conversation about what it means to take care of our community and its home. And I'm grateful to all the members and friends of this congregation who participate in that conversation.

Another conversation we'll be having: you may notice that there are two worship themes in March, as Climate Justice Month begins on March 22 and lasts through Earth Day (April 22). Environmental justice is the intersection of all other justice issues – race, class, economy, education. This year's conference with Allies for Racial Equity and

Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries in New Orleans will focus on environmental justice. The Selma pilgrimage will also include a workshop on this topic. I look forward to sharing these ideas with you.

In faith and love,
Karen



March 10 AM Sunday Services

- 3/1 **“Congregation of Great Strength”**
Karen Quinlan, Minister
Come celebrate our JRUUC community! On this first day of our Annual Budget Drive, we'll spend our worship time exploring our sacred dance of giving and receiving. We'll remind ourselves that we are indeed of great strength, and that we have the power to achieve our hopes and dreams. We'll also have a Covenanting Ceremony with our Visiting Stewards. Rachel Avery and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.
- 3/8 **“What It Means To Be the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation”**
Arthur Thexton & Pamela Younger
March 9th, 1965 was the last day Rev. Reeb spent standing up for justice before unknowingly giving his life to change history. We'll reflect on what motivated this Congregation to choose Rev. Reeb as its namesake as well as what it means to be a member here. Join us for a brief group discussion directly after service about what it means to you to be a part of JRUUC. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

Minister's Office hours for March

Weeks of March 1 and March 8:

Tuesdays, 10:00am-2:00pm

Weeks of March 15 and March 22:

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!

Karen will be out of town for the Living Legacy Pilgrimage to Selma from Wednesday, March 4 through Monday, March 9, and for the annual Allies for Racial Equity Conference from Wednesday, March 11 through Monday, March 16. She will be available by email and phone during this time, and has scheduled office hours on Tuesdays of those weeks. Karen will also be out of the office on Study Leave from Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 4, during which time she will be unavailable except for pastoral emergencies.

3/15 "Five Dollars Is Five Dollars"

Carin Bringelson

This month Visiting Stewards are meeting with members and friends of JRUUC to discuss our visions for our Beloved Community as well as our financial commitments to make those goals a reality. In honor of these sacred conversations, we'll share this award-winning Stewardship sermon, written by the Rev. Greg Ward. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

3/22 "Commit2Respond: Reveling"

Karen Quinlan, Minister

We'll kick off Climate Justice Month with a Multigenerational service focusing on the element of water. Water signifies emotion and immersion, and, on International World Water Day, we'll explore our connection with the natural world and its gifts, basic human rights, and grief at the potential for loss due to climate change. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

3/29 "Commit2Respond: Reckoning"

Karen Quinlan, Minister

On the second week of Climate Justice Month, we'll focus on the element of fire. Fire signifies transformation, passion, and righteous anger. Today we'll explore where our energy comes from, and how we engage in reckoning with the impacts and injustices of climate change. Rachel Avery and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.

Listening Session cancelled for March

Karen usually holds a listening session in her office on the first Sunday of the month. This month's listening session is cancelled so that everyone is free to attend the:

March 1st Annual Budget Drive

Kick-off Event

Join together for a lunch and program and the opportunity to revel as a part of this congregation of great strength!



Exploring Membership Class Saturday, March 21st 9 am to 1 pm

Newcomers and old-timers alike are invited to participate in this fun-filled class about being a member of JRUUC.

Inspired by one another, we'll explore What we hold Sacred, Unitarian Universalism, the History of our JRUUC community, and Expectations of membership.

Snacks, tea and coffee, lunch and some Memory-making fun will all be provided!

Childcare available upon request.
Please RSVP by Friday, March 13th to Jocie Luglio, Membership Committee Chair: jocie.jruuc@gmail.com or 608-442-8814.



President's Column

Dear members and friends,

I hope you are well. This month I have two goals: to tell you what the board of Trustees has been doing and to tell you about my gratitude.

We have been busy! The Board of Trustees (BOT) has been working on writing charges and supporting charges that have been written for committees, task forces and groups here at JRUUC. The goal is for every group to know why they are meeting and have knowledge of authority, guidance, and accountability. More details to come as this is part of our ongoing Governance & Ministry growth and development.

The Executive Committee, along the Operating Budget Task Force and the Chalice Lighter Grant Task Force, have been working on two projects. The first is to discern who, how, and why we create an operating budget each year. The second was to apply for a Chalice Lighter Grant. We submitted our materials in time to meet the February 22nd deadline and are waiting for the results. Of course, all of this was completed in addition to our BOT work and over-seeing the day-to-day running of JRUUC.

From these recent experiences, I've learned a few things. Human beings love doing work that is meaningful and focused. This is the power of writing a charge. It delegates authority and focuses expectations and outcomes while leaving the "how to get there" up to the group. We can do work that is complicated and filled with data without feeling burned out at the end. This work can be done with relatively few meetings as long as communication is open and clear.

This is an excerpt from a short speech I gave about financial stewardship and the gratitude my heart has for the friends and members of JRUUC:

I want to tell you about my gratitude because my heart is spilling over with gratitude for our Beloved Community. Gratitude for those willing and able to reflect on their own personal growth. Gratitude for

those who are wounded and unaware of their own potential. Gratitude that both of these groups overlap and intertwine in a sustained way when we live out our beliefs. Gratitude for intentional community. Gratitude for the grace to continue to make mistakes and a place to come to when healing is needed. Gratitude for your willingness to share time, talents, and treasures. Gratitude for the power of financial stability and the challenging conversations that come with that. Gratitude for all who have agreed to support all of this with your financial stewardship.

We are at a wonderful moment in our history, doing meaningful work with real people in our community. We are small but mighty. We know that financial stewardship is a key pillar to our success. We are a congregation of great strength.

Kim Reain, President

**Mark your calendar for
Karen Quinlan's
Ordination & Installation
Saturday, May 23rd at 11 am**

Amazing Worship Service with a
Challenging and Inspiring Sermon
JRUUC Choir singing a new anthem
by UU composer Jason Shelton
And Much More

**Followed by a
Luncheon and Reception**

Karen's ordination weekend may include
hosting out of town Ministers, family, and
friends as well as providing transportation

To and from the airport and/or

To and from Reeb the day of the event.

If you have questions or

You are ready to volunteer,

Please contact Thomas Lund at

ord.reeb@gmail.com



Religious Education

First of all, I am pleased to announce that I will be returning as the Director of Religious Education beginning July 1, 2015. I am excited for all the great work we are going to do together!

While I am gone from Reeb from March 15th – June 30th, the Religious Education Committee will be taking the reins. As we make this transition from DRE to lay-led RE program for a few months, there may be a few bumps in the road, but we are doing all that we can to be sure that the program continues to run smoothly. We are grateful for your help and your patience during this time.

February was another exciting month in Religious Education! Not only did we have our normally scheduled Sunday classes, but we had a great second session of OWL, and a successful Multigenerational service. This service was followed by a World Cafe event to answer important questions about how the RE program can be even better.

The World Cafe was extremely successful, with four full tables of folks, from kids to older adults, having fruitful conversations about the future of the Religious Education Program. Rev Karen, the RE Committee, and I will be looking closely at the gathered information over the summer as we plan for the 2015-2016 program year.

Looking forward, we are still on the look-out for comfy couches for our youth room, healthy snacks for Sunday mornings, and Assistants for our 6+ program. If you have any info on where we can find any of these, please contact re@jruuc.org!

Sara
Acting Director of Religious Education



Financial Update

	January	Year to date
Income	\$10,545	\$104,220
Expenses	\$10,470	\$ 86,327

Income for January was \$10,545 against expenses of \$10,470, putting the congregation about \$75 in the black for the month. We are ahead \$17,893 for the fiscal year to date. Note that \$3,400 of that is held in reserve for the ordination ceremony. Still, this is one of the strongest positions we've been in financially in recent memory.

It appears that our 2014-15 building insurance and worker's compensation insurance will come in slightly below what we budgeted.

Registration income for children's and youth RE have totaled \$434.68 thus far. (Treasurer's after the meeting question: We have currently budgeted \$1,000 for RE. Do we want to increase the RE Budget by all or part of the amount donated by parents? There is no finance committee position on this though we could discuss it at a future meeting.)

Electronic Bill Payment: Elizabeth Barrett mentioned that the President has requested that we explore electronic payment of some bills to reduce the number of checks that have to be signed. We discussed whether this would reduce the oversight function that the two signature rule is supposed to provide. It makes sense to do this for payroll, telephone, and other utilities expenses which are of a recurring nature. (We already do this for our mortgage payment and MG&E, which are automatic withdrawals.) One option would be to have Elizabeth print out a report of all electronic payments made and put that into the BOT box for signatures before keeping it on file to create a record that someone on the board was aware of the payments.

Art Hackett, Treasurer

FUN(d)raising Committee News

Sunday, March 15th Soup and Bread Fundraiser and Prize Drawing

March 15 is the next after service fundraising event. Bring your favorite savory muffin, quick bread, biscuit or bread to be served with the soup. If you bring in your recipe, it will be printed in our upcoming cookbook and be entered into the drawing for an Ironworks Café gift card and other prizes. Soup and soup recipes may also be contributed. Questions? Contact Cindy Rudd at 608-244-8428.

Rummage and Book Sale Saturday, April 11th

Our rummage and book sale is successful because of all the great donations we get from our congregants. Start now to find all those books and household items you no longer need! Also consider helping set up and sell at the sale. More specific information will be in the April Newsletter and announcements.

Justice at JRUUC

Sustainable Saturdays The Fourth Sat. each month

March 28th at JRUUC

3:30 pm: Action-taking

5:30 pm: Potluck set-up

6 pm: Eat Dinner

7pm: Program and Community-building

Everyone is welcome

For more information, contact

Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability

Group (PJS – pronounced “pee-jays”) meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm March 9th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.



Update from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES -- an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state. From numerous angles we are working to decrease the Wisconsin prison population. We are also exploring the idea of expanding our work to include immigration and transportation issues.

Mark Your Calendars for Madison Action Day: People of Faith United for Justice

Wednesday, April 29 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Registration and coffee at 8:00

Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Ave.

As a new legislature starts work on our state budget, our representatives need to hear our values, priorities, and concerns. It is a day-long gathering to learn, discuss, pray and advocate together for social justice issues important to all the people of Wisconsin. Together, we can ensure our commitment to compassion and justice is reflected in our state budget.

Registration, including lunch and a participant packet, is \$25. Register at:

<http://mosesmadison.org/save-the-date-april-29-madison-action-day-2015/> Scholarships are available. If you need help with (or want to provide help for) childcare and carpooling, please email: mosesorganizer@gmail.com.

Additional Upcoming Opportunities:

- Monthly meetings at First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave. Saturdays March 7th and April 11th 10 am -- 12 noon.
- Conference Calls allow folks to learn about a particular 11x15 Campaign Work Group.

Questions? See <http://prayforjusticeinwi.org/> or <http://mosesmadison.org/> or contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com.



Giving of our Treasure

All we have is on loan. Whether it be our next breath, the food we eat, what is in our pocketbooks; it is on loan and we can't take it with us when we go. We have the opportunity to use these resources.... as a sign of gratitude, and the essential question is not how much we can afford to give, but how much we can afford to keep.

--Stephan Gray

Gratitude is just one of the reasons we give of our treasure. Giving can be a way of expressing the gratitude we feel for all we have. It can be a celebration for all we have. Giving also gives meaning to our lives. When we give to JRUUC, we support its vision and mission. We don't just attend worship services here; we are a part of this congregation of great strength. Also, and this is why we are conducting our budget drive this way, we give to people we respect when they ask.

At the orientation for our Visiting Stewards, I looked around the room and thought, "What a generous and strong group of people here!" I'm not sure when you will be reading this. Whether it is before or after the Kick-off event, you will be speaking to your visiting steward soon. They are visiting with the goal of speaking to you of the vision of JRUUC and of your dreams. They want to know what is important to you in this beloved community. Asking for your financial support is only a part of their visit. They are prepared to answer your questions about the financial commitment form or the Fair Share Giving Guide. The Visiting Stewards are showing their strength. Let's do the same. We are all made of precious

materials that enable us to power our great beloved community. Now is the time to be bold and generous!

If you are interested in looking at the financial commitment form, check it out at http://www.jruuc.org/sites/default/files/2015_Financial_commitment_Form_FINAL.pdf or if you want to be inspired check out our new brochure at http://www.jruuc.org/sites/default/files/PDF/2015_ABD_Brochure_Final.pdf

We are looking forward to spending time with you at the Kickoff or in community in general. Thanks for your consideration and generosity.

Blessed be,
Heike Saynisch and Mary Wagner, Annual Budget Drive co-chairs

Regional Assembly is filling up fast!

The
NEW
in
The
New Era
of
Unitarian
Universalism

Regional Assembly

2015

April 17-19

MidAmerica Regional Assembly Marriott Hotel in Naperville, IL

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

<http://www.midamericauua.org>



From the Office

March 1st is my seventh anniversary of being employed here at JRUUC. Congratulations to me! Besides my anniversary, March is the time for the annual Unitarian Universalist ritual of attempting to secure a great hotel room for General Assembly. I'll be on my laptop Monday, March 2nd. I travel to UUA General Assembly (GA) almost every year as a sacred pilgrimage to heaven on earth. It's a place full of worship services, singing, connection, great energy, and much learning.

I think every UU ought to attend General Assembly at least once. This year, GA will be June 24-28 in Portland, Oregon. The last time it was held in Portland, 6,000 UUs attended. Portland is a magical city, complete with light rail, many bookstores, beautiful gardens, and a view of Mount Rainier.

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



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 24-28

<http://www.uua.org/ga>



Looking for More UU fun this summer?

Check out Camp UniStar, a camp for UU individuals and families on Star Island in northern Minnesota's Cass Lake. Reachable only by water, the camp is surrounded by the Chippewa National Forest. www.CampUniStar.org



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