

EAST BREEZE

Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 4 — April 2015

From the Minister

I spent a long weekend in Birmingham and Selma, recalling the Civil Rights Era with some of its UU “veterans,” and discerning, with current scholars and theologians, how that glorious and painful history might inform current racial justice issues and current Unitarian Universalism. Moving talks and workshops were interspersed with walking the road from the café where James Reeb, Clark Olsen, and Orloff Miller were viciously attacked; singing freedom songs in Brown Chapel AME; and crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge with thousands of other people. We did all of these things together, as Unitarian Universalists, actively reflecting on how our values and our faith informed these experiences, making them deeply transformative. And in this listening and doing and being together, we learned that our relationships are the foundation upon which all of our work toward justice is built – that it is not our moral outrage but our relationships that call us into action.

I spend the next long weekend in New Orleans, at a conference on environmental justice presented by Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries, the organization of people of color in our denomination, and Allies for Racial Equity, the sibling organization for people who identify as white. This was our first joint conference, as the leadership of DRUUMM has always asked that the work of ARE be to support white people as they learn about systemic racism and white privilege in spaces that they can process this work without hurting people of color. This year, DRUUMM leadership insisted that we work together on a huge issue that needs all of us – that we create a new kind of relationship as we move intentionally into a very uncertain and scary future.

And while I was gone, Tony Robinson was shot and killed. And there is moral outrage.

In the midst of my own moral outrage, I’m asking myself with whom I am in relationship – and with whom our congregation is in relationship. Does our

extended family include Tony and his family and community? Does it include Officer Matt Kenny? Does it include people of other faiths? What about people of color of other faiths? Or the folks in the Young, Gifted, and Black Coalition?

With whom are we in relationship? And how will those relationships guide our decisions and actions? I don’t have the answers to these questions, and I’m hoping we can discern our way in this and through this together.

And here’s a piece of that journey: when I invited our Youth Group to collaborate on an April worship service, they got right to brainstorming topics and settled on “Racial Justice.” I’m pleased and proud that our young people are eager to engage this work, and I’m looking forward to learning from them and with them.

In faith and love,
Karen

April Listening Session

Join Karen in her office at 11:30 on Sunday, April 5 for a small group meeting, where we’ll talk about our hopes and dreams for JRUC. Reservations not required.

Minister’s Office hours for April

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!

Please note that Karen will be out of the office on Study Leave from Monday, March 30 through Thursday, April 3, during which time she will be unavailable except for pastoral emergencies.

Karen will be in Naperville, IL for the spring MidAmerica ministers’ meeting and Regional Assembly from Wednesday, April 15 through Sunday, April 19. She will be available by email and phone during this time.



April 10 AM Sunday Services

- 4/5 “Commit2Respond: Reconnecting”**
Karen Quinlan, Minister
On the third week of Climate Justice Month, we’ll focus on the element of air. Air signifies breath, spirit, and reconnecting with hope through relationship. We’ll explore these themes through the frame of Joanna Macy’s “Work that Reconnects” and the Easter story. Margaret Noll will provide the music.
- 4/12 “Commit2Respond: Committing”**
Karen Quinlan and Christopher Sims
On the fourth week of Climate Justice Month, we’ll focus on the element of earth. Earth signifies realization, bringing our vision into reality, and committing to long-term actions that will create a paradigm shift and grow the climate justice movement. Activist and spoken word artist Christopher Sims will join Karen in leading a service that will help us think about loving and respecting our Earth even more. Rachel Avery and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.
- 4/19 “Earth Day”**
JRUUC Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group
We’ll explore Earth Day themes with the PJS this morning Margaret Noll will provide the music.
- 4/26 “Racial Justice”**
Karen Quinlan and JRUUC Youth
The Youth Group will share their experiences and understandings of racial injustice, and of ways they see that institutional racism is becoming more visible in Madison. Rachel Avery will provide the music.



President’s Column

Our Annual Budget Drive may be done by the time you receive this letter. My hope is that you enjoyed the process and that you enjoyed getting to know more about your fellow congregants. At our best and at our worst, our Beloved Community is the relationships we have with each other.

Reach out. Talk. Write an email or note. Check on someone. Follow-up with a joy or a sorrow from a Sunday Service. When we build relationships, we build community. And the beauty of both of those things is that study after study shows that relationships and being vulnerable is what gives us sustainability and resilience. We are all interdependent after all.

I recently read an article that was based on this idea: “If a job is worth doing, it’s worth doing poorly.” Fascinating. This aligns with another concept that I’ve been trying out this year, “I am enough.” Don’t wait for perfect. Don’t wait for getting it right. Move forward with what your heart tells you is the right thing to do. Apologize, adjust, retool and grow as you venture forward with yourself or with your ideas.

If we start to believe that we must have certain things in place and must follow certain rules in order to do something, we limit our possibilities. And possibilities are where it’s at. I love potential. I love ideas. I love possibilities. In this zone, I don’t have to have the answers. I can make mistakes. Things can, and they do, go wrong. But that’s how it is supposed to go and adjustments can be made. Mulligans? Do-overs? These give us outcomes that we would otherwise limit ourselves from experiencing or learning.

I hope you will be inspired to get to know each other, knowing that you are enough exactly the way that you are. There is room for mistakes. There is room for do-overs. There is room to start exactly where you are and begin to move forward.

Kim Rain, President



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

**Amazing Worship Service
Challenging & Inspiring Sermon**

**Our JRUUC Choir Singing
"Life Calls Us On," 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**



A Great Show of Strength

We are in the last half of our budget drive. We don't have specific numbers yet, but this congregation has shown a great deal of power in the last month. An early show of strength in this year's budget drive was the Visiting Steward Orientation. The energy was palpable! A wonderful group like that was sure to instigate some great conversations. Then the terrific Kickoff event happened. The worship service was wonderful, with a great sermon and inspiring music. The Covenanting between Congregants and Visiting Steward was enough to give one goosebumps.

The celebration afterwards could stir even the most uncommitted of hearts! We joined our children in a riotous game of The Human Machine. We swelled with pride upon hearing a wonderful testimonial about the growth of one of our young people. We listened with intensity as we heard about our future. It seemed as though we were thinking, "We can make this happen!"

Our Machine on the wall in our lobby is growing with each Financial Commitment Form that is turned in. You may be in the midst of a visit from your Steward. If you have not been contacted, and would like a visit, please let us know and we'll see that one gets up. More to come.

Let's keep reveling in our power!
Blessed be, Heike Saynisch & Mary Wagner



Financial Update

	February	Year to date
Income	\$10,706	\$114,925
Expenses	\$15,027	\$101,354

Income for the month of February was \$10,705.54 against Expenses of \$15,027.20 for a net loss for the month of \$4,321.66. Expenses were higher this month due to the payment of workers' compensation and building insurance. There was also a payout of \$1,058 for the Share the Plate program.

The good news is that we are over \$13,000 ahead of expenses for the year to date and have a \$27,000 balance in the checking account. Contributions are six percent ahead of the level expected at this point in the budget cycle. Miscellaneous fundraising is ahead of budget.

Because of this year's light snowfall (so far) plowing costs will be minimal. We have yet to receive an invoice for the few occasions when the plow operator showed up. In other business the committee recommended that a net expenses account to track funds in the Minister's discretionary funds. This is the same way we track the income and expenses for the men's shelter fund.

Art Hackett, Treasurer

Adult R.E.: Introduction to Yin Yoga, A Spiritual Practice, Session 2

This class will include the practice of yin yoga poses, discussion of the 8 limbs of yoga, brief meditations and mindful breathing practices. Led by JRUUC member Bev Buhr, it will **start on April 1st and take place every Wednesday except April 29 for 7 weeks until May 20th, from 11 AM - 12:15 PM** in the JRUUC Sanctuary. Cost for JRUUC members is 1/2 price, paying \$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. 3/22/15.

FUN(d)raising Committee Events



Rummage and Book Sale Saturday, April 11th

Start thinking about the items
You want to donate to the
Annual rummage sale!

We collect books, household items,
toys, sports equipment, etc.

Please no clothing.

More details about dropping off
items will be in future
weekly emails

and the Order Of Service (OOS)
announcements.

We will need assistance with
setting up for the rummage sale
Friday, April 10 5-9 pm and
At the rummage sale 8 am-3 pm.

If you are able to help,
please contact Cindy Rudd
ruddhaack@sbcglobal.net
or 608-244-8428.



**Our Annual 50/50 Raffle
runs from April 11 to May 17**
The Winner will be announced at
the Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 17

Justice at JRUUC

Sustainable Saturdays The Fourth Sat. each month

April 25th 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 April 13th. 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.

Madison Action Day April 29th People of Faith United for Justice

Wednesday, April 29 from 9 am – 4 pm
Registration and coffee at 8:30
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

To register, send names to:

mosesorganizer@gmail.com or mail registrations to PO Box 7031, Madison, 53707. Payment of \$25 can be brought to the April 11th meeting or mailed to the PO Box (with "Action Day" in the memo line). Scholarships available, so please encourage people to sign up and attend regardless of ability to pay.

For more details about the event see <http://prayforjusticeinwi.org/>

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

Share the Plate Totals since August 2014

Make Room For Youth	\$211.50
MOSES — JRUUC publicity	\$250.00
Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice	\$157.00
Stone Soup Squad	\$170.00
OM Tiny House Village	\$251.50
Goodman CC Thanksgiving Baskets	\$278.00
350 Madison	\$119.00
LGBT Books for Prisoners	\$140.50
Street Pulse	\$167.00
Vera Court Literacy Project	\$122.00
Pa-Moja Cultural Exchange Program	\$191.50
Proud Theater	\$125.00
Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$196.00
Personal Essentials Pantry	\$147.75
Tony Terrell Robinson Family Fund	\$242.00

Investing in Reeb's Long-Term Future

Throughout our working lives, most of us provide for future retirement. Congregations are no different; the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) claims that *every congregation should have, as one of its major supporting pillars, an Endowment Fund* that provides financial stability and investment income into the future. In May, the Board of Trustees will ask the congregation to add a resolution to the congregational Bylaws formally establishing an Endowment Fund and a committee that will administer it, constrained by the Bylaws and also Policies and Procedures that will be adopted at the same time.

The proposed rules will provide for investment of the Fund in a social-justice-friendly manner and prevent withdrawal for use in annual budgets until the Fund reaches the level of the operating budget of the previous year. After that, up to half of the fund's averaged investment income can be used by the Board, while the rest keeps adding to the Fund's growth. This Endowment Fund will enable us to donate funds now that will sustain Reeb into the future. Soon we will provide much more information about the proposed Endowment Fund.

John Mathis, for the temporary Endowment Committee



From the Office

You may know that on several occasions, Tia Maeder and her family and friends have sold Black Lives Matter t-shirts on the sidewalk in front of James Reeb UU. I'm glad that we helped promote racial equality in this small way.

Ms. Maeder, an East High School parent, contacted the Reeb office to ask permission to sell t-shirts and Girl Scout cookies in the parking lot at the end of 4th Street. I told her to set up in front of James Reeb instead because the city owns the parking area. Ms. Maeder borrowed two of our folding banquet tables and went to work. She's been back several times to sell Black Lives Matter and Justice 4 Tony Robinson shirts, including the day of Tony Robinson's funeral.

Our proximity to East High School has been a special gift this year, as we are also hosting a mentorship program for African American high school students in our Sanctuary Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

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



MidAmerica Regional Assembly April 17-19 in Naperville!

Regional Assembly will feature two excellent speakers exploring the New in a New Era of Unitarian Universalism. Come and experience the good food and time for meeting UUs from across our great Region, ending with the joy of shared worship and musical celebration on Sunday morning.

<http://www.midamericauua.org/RA>





UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 24-28

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting, conference, convention, and Celebration of our UU Living Tradition. Attendees worship, sing, witness, learn, connect, and make policy through democratic process.

**The 2015 Ware Lecturer is
Dr. Cornel West**

**Hotels, Dormitory Housing, and
Home Hospitality are available
<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



Summer is fast approaching! It's time to start making plans for summer time family fun! Come join us for good Unitarian Universalist fellowship and a relaxing week of village life...

July 12-18, 2015

Bayside is a small (40-60 person) kid-centric family summer camp held at the Wesley Woods Conference Center.

Bayside offers adult workshops and Worship services, with an emphasis on quality child care during the morning Adult activities, and lots of free time in the afternoons for family fun and relaxation. Founded in 1988, Bayside Camp aims to provide a nurturing "family" atmosphere for singles and families of all configurations and traditions.

Bayside Camp can be a great stress reducer. It's an affordable way for busy families to spend quality time together, and it is a great place for grandparents, aunts, and uncles to spend some precious moments with their favorite child.

<http://www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside>

