

EAST BREEZE

Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 5 — May 2015

From the Minister

I've been spending a lot of time lately reflecting on the Sankofa bird. "Sankofa" is a word from the Akan language of Ghana that translates to "reach back and get it," and the Sankofa bird, which comes out of the same tradition, is shown with its body and head facing in opposite directions – looking back as it moves forward. This bird has been referred to several times during my travels over the last couple of months – in Selma, at the DRUUMM/ARE environmental justice conference, at the MidAmerica Regional Assembly. Always, the lesson in the reference is the importance of remembering the past as we move forward into the future. This is true in the justice work in which we're engaged, and it is true in our personal lives and in our relationships.

The first week in May marks a year since we first met, during candidating week. We all did a lot of work to prepare for that meeting – outer work and inner work. You reached back and got a remembered sense of your history as a congregation, and you brought it forward into your vision of what you might become. I reached back and brought my whole life with me into this new relationship, intending to be informed by past relationships and experiences as we began the journey into learning and growing together. And so, with those pasts in mind, we decided that we would be good for one another.

This month, you will ordain me into the Unitarian Universalist ministry, and you will install me as your minister. These events mark both a culmination and a beginning, as we celebrate this step in my formation as a minister and your calling me to be your minister. And we will all bring visions of our past ministries to inform our future ministry on this auspicious day.

In faith and love,
Karen

May Listening Session

Join Karen in her office at 11:30 on Sunday, May 3rd for a small group meeting, where we'll talk about our hopes and dreams for JRUC. Reservations not required.

Minister's Office hours for May

Wednesdays, 12:30-2:00pm

Thursdays 9:30-noon

Evening hours by appointment

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

Please note that Karen will be out of the office for a ministers' meeting Monday, May 18 through Thursday, May 21. She will be available during that time via email, phone, and text.

May 10 AM Sunday Services

5/3

"Hey, That's My Space!"

Karen Quinlan, Minister

Our May theme is borders and boundaries. This morning we'll explore why and how we create and maintain personal boundaries, and how the practice of maintaining those boundaries can be good for us and our relationships. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

5/10

"What Are We Here For, Anyway?"

Karen Quinlan, Minister

In the building of community, we are called to widen our circles of understanding and compassion, to reach deep inside ourselves and to reach out across our boundaries. This morning we'll explore the rewarding and sometimes uncomfortable work of looking beyond our own selves. Margaret Noll and the Atimevu Drum and Dance Ensemble will provide the music.

5/17 “The New Era”

Karen Quinlan, Minister

Unitarian Universalism has good news for us and for the world! There are a lot of ways to spread our message, ways that speak to many different kinds of people. Today we'll explore how our faith movement is working at crossing boundaries of age, race, theology, and ways of understanding. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

5/24 “Borders and Boundaries”

The Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Some boundaries are healthy; some are confining and destructive. Borders – personal, racial, and international – can keep us safe, and they can isolate and oppress us. This year saw both the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the 50th Anniversary of the Selma marches. Rev. Ian W. Riddell joins us as we explore the meaning of boundaries and borders in our lives. Rachel Avery will provide the music.

5/31 “Service Sunday”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan and the Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group

After gathering for a short worship with Rev. Karen in the sanctuary, we'll work in multigenerational teams on several projects, such as preparing the children's garden, clean-up in the park, helping out at the OM Village, and maybe a bike repair workshop. We'll finish up with a potluck picnic in the park – bring a blanket to sit on and a dish to share! Margaret Noll will provide the music.



President's Column

Dear friends, the church year is wrapping up. So many folks have been working hard, meeting frequently, sharing deeply, and walking the path of Stewardship in its many forms of Time, Treasure and Talent. The challenge of serving the community well, with transparency and compassion, keeping

both short and long term visions, all while living out our principles and tenets has never felt more important nor challenging as now. I hope you will take some time to speak to your leaders, your volunteers, your fellow congregants, and witness the depth of heart in which they serve our Beloved Community.

I am often asked “How do you do it?” and “Are you always here?” I have been wondering how to answer this in a way that cultivates an understanding of stewardship and service. My motivation and commitment come from my personal experience with JRUUC. I walked through these doors approximately a decade ago with a three year old who lived loudly and passionately and with an intensity that often left a wake of disorientation and confusion. A child who has always felt very deeply. A child who demanded your presence. Who demanded you look him in the eye, but not too long, and speak directly to him. And you did.

Back then, I was exhausted and hungry for spiritual sustenance. The world was cracking open and its pain was leaking out wherever I looked. All of you showed up for me. You opened your hearts and your arms. You embraced my fragile heart and my son, and while they are separate, there were so many times when they felt like one. You provided Sunday Service and RE. You made food. You set up and took down and set up and took down, as often as was needed for whatever event was happening. You governed and you ministered. You made financial commitments and attended to meetings. You showed up. You stayed at the table. You kept the fire of community burning when I needed warmth. My cup was filled. The chaos of life seemed manageable.

So I say to you now simply that I show up. I stay at the table. I am serving my Beloved Community. Real life continues at its own pace with its own needs and because of my spiritual home, I am often more able to ride the wave of my reality. I am nourished and therefore I nourish. In this way, I am able to live out my beliefs as a UU. It's not that I feel an obligation of debt to pay back. I feel blessed and I wish to pass it on. May I be a light in someone's darkness. We are an interconnected web. All that we have is what we have made together.

Kim Reain, President

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 17th

We will be voting on the following items:

1. BOT and Nominating Committee Nominees
2. Endowment Amendment and Resolution
3. Statement of Conscience on Racial Justice
4. Move to Amend
5. 2015-2016 Operating Budget

1. Nominees for Elected Positions 2015-16

Board of Trustees:

Charlie McNulty – President-Elect

Jeanne Lydon - Treasurer

Doug Erickson - At-large Trustee

Elaine Pridgen - At-large Trustee

Mary Wagner - At-large Trustee

Andy Soth - At-large Trustee (one-year Term)

Non-Board positions

Derek Peterson - Assistant Treasurer

Jan Gordon - Nominating Committee

Richard Johnson - Nominating Committee

Heike Saynisch - Nominating Committee

2. An Explanation of the Proposed Bylaw Amendment

Please join me in reading and understanding the Bylaw Endowment Amendment which includes the Enabling Resolution. The Stewardship Committee was charged by the BoT to create the Interim Endowment Committee to prepare a suitable draft of an Enabling Resolution, to be presented to the congregation at a future congregational meeting for incorporation into the congregational bylaws, to prepare a draft of the Policies and Procedures for the Endowment Committee that the Enabling Resolution would create, and to provide education and information about the importance and opportunities of an Endowment Fund.

An amendment to the JRUUC Bylaws is therefore proposed by the Board of Trustees. The amendment is an addition that was drafted by the Interim Endowment Committee and approved by the BoT. It will be presented for a vote at the Congregational Meeting, in keeping with our Bylaws. If this amendment with its resolution is not passed by the congregation, then it will go back to

committee. We ask that you read and understand it prior to the meeting.

The following explanation is from the Interim Endowment Committee. “The Enabling Resolution establishes a congregational Endowment Committee (i.e., one that is established by the congregation, rather than just by the BoT). It specifies the general purposes and governance of an Endowment Fund, requiring that it be invested and used to provide long-term financial stability for the congregation rather than for augmenting the annual budget or for any other specific purpose or cause. The Enabling Resolution will also require that the Fund be operated within the rules set forth in the Policies and Procedures document as adopted and amended by the BoT. These rules must be clear and unambiguous, and give details of the ways that donated funds and their associated income will be accepted, invested, and distributed. Such details are vital but are not appropriate to be set into the bylaws of the congregation.

Endowment funds are so important that the UUA strongly feels that every congregation should have one (see Wayne Clark, *Beyond Fundraising, A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship*). This publication suggests the Enabling Resolution be adopted as an amendment to the bylaws so that potential donors can be assured that their gifts will provide long-term benefits to the congregation, rather than for short-term benefits for future budgets. Future BoTs can modify the Policies and Procedures but not the Enabling Resolution.

There are two good reasons for an Endowment Fund. The first is that it provides financial stability. Only after the fund has grown large enough (to be specified in the Enabling Resolution; our draft specifies 100% of the previous year’s budget) can part of its investment income provide for transient congregational needs.

The second reason to have an endowment is even more important: it taps into a very large source of gifts that annual fund drives do not. Occasional, unsustainable, possibly large donations provide donors the deep satisfaction of supporting their core causes far into the future. The magnitude of such one-time gifts is often more than the total of many years of annual support. The donations often arise from wills, which transfer the net worth of

individuals to beneficiaries, but can also arise from insurance policies, retirement plans, or other extraordinary revenues.” Here is the URL for the Proposed Amendment:

<http://www.jruuc.org/endowment-amendment>

--Kim Reain

3. Congregational Vote on Racial Justice

We will vote on a Statement of Conscience on Racial Justice. Please read this abbreviated version and be prepared to vote at the meeting:

... be it resolved that the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation stands in support of, and in solidarity with, the Communities of Color in Dane County in their efforts to decrease violence in their communities, and to promote improved economic, educational, health, and wellbeing outcomes in their communities.

Therefore be it also resolved that support can include financial gifts, use of building space, public support by our minister, the use of our name in the media, public witness, providing food or childcare, and participation of our members in direct actions as we are called by our community's People of Color.

4. Congregational Vote on Move To Amend

Move to Amend is an effort towards campaign finance reform and the movement to amend the constitution so that money is not speech and corporations are not people. We will vote on whether to endorse the resolution in support of move to amend. If we endorse it, we will be the first UU congregation in Wisconsin to do so.

The UUA has recommended that congregations resolve themselves to take a stand on this issue and move to amend. Here is the link for more information: <http://www.uua.org/statements/amend-constitution-corporations-are-not-persons-and-money-not-speech>

On April 19, there was a presentation and discussion on Move to Amend. If you missed it and would like to see the power point or have any questions, please email Kelly at kearns@uwalumni.com.

5. 2015-16 Operating Budget

A dedicated group of Reebers have been working hard on creating an Operating Budget based on the results of our Annual Budget Drive.



Gratitude Comes Full Circle

In the early days of this budget drive, in this space, we talked about gratitude as one of the reasons folks give to their faith community, gratitude for all they have. We have a relative abundance, and we want to share it. We are particularly willing to share it where we can reap the benefits, or in a place that will use our gifts to further our values. Now, the Annual Budget Drive for 2015-2016 has ended, and we find ourselves with another kind of gratitude.

So many people gave of their time, talent and treasures. There were people who helped plan the drive, people who helped with food for our kickoff, people who help train Visiting Stewards, people who made visits to all the members of JRUC, people who helped make our brochure, people who gave us testimonials about their experience with giving to our beloved community. And especially those who gave as generously as they could to support our spiritual home. **THANK YOU ALL, for being part of our great machine!!** We really proved that “JRUC is a congregation of great strength!”

JRUC received financial pledges from 68 households. 22 of those consider themselves to be Fair Share givers. Over 35 pledges were increased from last year's and seven of the pledges are from first time givers.

We will announce the final total at the Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 17th. We have come very close to our goal of complete participation in the drive for financial commitments.

With much gratitude,
Heike Saynisch and Mary Wagner
Co-chairs, Annual Budget Drive

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|--|--|
| RAFFLE TICKETS | NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ PHONE _____ |
| Our Annual 50/50 Raffle runs until May 17th | |
| The Winner will be announced at the Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 17 | |



**Growing into the challenge of our
Provocative statements:
Introducing the JRUUC Caring Tree**

*“We make room for differences and diversity and we care for each other in times of need through our strong pastoral care groups.”
From the JRUUC provocative statements*

Recognizing that there are both pastoral and parish needs we propose to meet the parish needs through the creation of the JRUUC Caring Tree. Meetings and brainstorm sessions were held and the JRUUC Caring Tree policy was written with Rev. Karen’s support and guidance.

The purpose of the Caring Tree is to provide a structure of guidance and accountability to pastoral and parish care at JRUUC. The structure clarifies the roles of the steering team and care providers and the kinds and levels of care that can be offered. For a full description visit our website <http://www.jruuc.org/caring-tree>

Briefly, the basic structure will consist of a steering team: the minister and two coordinators, a team leader for each area of service, and members who will deliver services and care.

The service areas we will focus on are: meals, rides, errands, celebration and condolence, visits, child care, and mental health support and education. We have not yet filled any of the roles (except for minister, of course. Thank you Karen!)

Please participate in a congregational survey that will help us begin to populate the “leaves” of the Caring Tree. Are you interested in serving as a coordinator, or a team leader? Would you be willing to be part of a meal train team or can you provide rides that will help our community to be more sustainable?

To be successful, the Caring Tree will need the full support of the congregation. Our many generous hearts can make the Caring Tree a reality.

Questions? Please contact Colleen O’Hara at ohara1945@gmail.com.

**Stewardship of our beloved community
Is about Time and Talent
as well as Treasure!**

**Now that we’ve completed our Annual Budget
Drive, we ask all Members and Friends
to please complete this survey**

We hope to get everyone to complete the congregational survey during May. It will serve three purposes: to populate the Caring Tree, to seek information about your gifts and talents that may support existing needs, and to gather information about various offerings or programs of interest to you that will enhance and enrich our congregational life together. Computers ready for survey completion are in the Narthex before and after service through May 17.

Here is the link to the survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PLLmC8Dj5ACtsdn1JJrJVRC1wUIoji-kIqJNjrh0PKU/viewform?usp=send_form

Financial Update

| | March | Year to date |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$13,704 | \$128,629 |
| Expenses | \$13,387 | \$112,741 |

Income for March was \$13,703.62 against expenses of \$13,386.90 for a net positive cash flow for the month of \$316.72. We are nearly \$14,000 ahead for the fiscal year to date. Looking ahead to April, several large advance rent payments are putting the congregation in good shape early in the current month.

Electronic Banking: The Committee reviewed information from Park Bank regarding electronic payroll and bill payment. It is recommended that we start handling the payroll electronically as of July first when the new check signers take over. We are inquiring as to any fees which may be involved. If this works well we may recommend adding additional electronic payments at a future date. The main concern is avoiding any cash flow problems due to payments occurring on an automatic schedule.

Mid-year Budget Changes: We discussed the issue of the changes in budget made mid-year last spring and it is recommended that the board set some sort of limit below which the finance committee can make adjustments to accommodate committee requests as the fiscal year draws to a close. If we are able to provide a reserve line in next year's budget, as is the plan, the committee could transfer money from it to deal with unexpected expenses.

Rollover of Unspent Funds: The Committee recommends we continue to zero out committee budgets at the end of the fiscal year to avoid bookkeeping challenges. If a committee has unused funds at the end of the fiscal year these funds will be moved into the general reserve fund once all other congregational financial commitments for the fiscal year have been met. These funds would then be available upon special request. A committee that would like to save for larger expenses in the next fiscal year by reducing their spending in the current fiscal year should work with Operating Budget Task Force to plan for this.

Art Hackett, Treasurer



James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation invites you to the Ordination of Karen Quinlan to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry and her Installation as our Minister

**Saturday, May 23rd at 11 am
Lunch immediately following
Children and youth are invited
to join the service –
and child care will be provided
A free-will offering to benefit the
Living Tradition Fund will be collected**

**RSVP to Thomas Lund at
ord.reeb@gmail.com by
Friday, May 8th**

Children's Religious Education Summer Preview

Once school is out JRUUC goes into summer mode. For Religious Education this means that all of the children and youth (except for the nursery) have one shared classroom each Sunday. This is an excellent opportunity for congregation members and friends that have not been teachers to get to know the kids by teaching or assisting on just one Sunday for the whole summer. The RE Committee will be seeking one-time teachers, so be prepared to be asked! The curricula we will be using for the summer is from Keepers of the Earth. Each week will focus on activities, stories and the culture of a particular tribe of Native Americans.

Justice at JRUUC



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.

Minister Karen Quinlan and many Reeb members participated in the **People of Faith United for Justice Madison Action Day 2015**



Reebers at Madison Action Day April 29th

Sustainable Saturdays

Usually the Fourth Sat. each month
May 30th at JRUUC

Note: this is the 5th Saturday!

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 “pea-jays”) meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm May 11th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Local Food Social Justice 6/13, 9/12, 10/31

CAC Collection Dates for 2015!

For many years, JRUUC has participated in the Community Action Coalition's Farmers Market Collection at the Saturday Dane County Farmers Market on the capitol square. We meet at **11:50 am** at the white CAC truck on the East Washington side of the capitol building, and collect left-over food or plants for about 60-90 minutes. The food is then distributed to local food pantries and shelters for meals. It is rewarding and fun! We need 8-12 people each Saturday; friends and kids are all welcome to help. This year our dates are **June 13th, September 12th, and October 31st.**

Mark your calendars and sign up early. Contact Jocie Luglio jocie.jruuc@gmail.com 608-442-8814.

Recent Share the Plate Totals

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Freedom, Inc. | \$172.50 |
| Sankofa Behavioral & Community Health | \$193.00 |
| Goodman Fund | \$295.00 |



From the Office

I had the pleasure of attending MidAmerica Regional Assembly with Karen Quinlan, Kim Rain, Virginia Harrison, Rachel Avery, and Teri Pepper. Arthur Thexton was also there, helping in the bookstore! There were two workshops geared toward congregational administrators, one before Regional Assembly and one during. I am in the process of implementing what I learned, in that you will soon receive weekly emails from me that are colorful, with photos and graphics and lots of live links to more complete information. If you don't receive a weekly email from me, please let me know at office@jruuc.org

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



**JRUUC Solstice Picnic Potluck
Saturday, June 21 at Noon
Hippo Park
(aka Wirth Court Park)
2801 St Paul Ave Madison, WI**

The membership committee wants to celebrate new members from 2014-2015, and what better way to do that than with ALL members!

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/parks/park.cfm?id=1385>

Date Coincides with Make Music Madison,
So the timing may change
**Please bring chairs and
a picnic item to share.**

There is a small shelter at the park and bathrooms are close by at the Goodman Center. For information contact Jocie Luglio at 442-8814
Day of the picnic, please contact Megan at 608-217-2022.



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**

**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



**James Reeb Unitarian Universalist
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Bayside UU Family Camp July 12-18

Bayside Camp provides a nurturing and fun atmosphere for singles and families of all configurations and traditions. It takes place on the shore of Lake Geneva in Williams Bay, WI, July 12-18. This special week includes adult workshops, activities for children, free time for family fun and relaxation, and intergenerational activities. For more information visit our website at: <http://www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside/> or contact the Camp Registrar, Carol Roan, at: BaysideUU@gmail.com or 608 232-1627.



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