

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 8 — August 2015

Connections

I'm excited to tell you that we have staff! Please join me in welcoming Sara Goodman back to JRUC as our Director of Religious Education. Sara served as our Acting DRE for a few months last year, and has agreed to a one-year contract that began on July 15; we'll begin our Search for someone to fill a longer-term position later this year. And please welcome Heather Yonker, our new Music Director! Heather is an accomplished musician and teacher, with interests in world music, jazz, music theory/history, and pedagogy, and experience with choir direction. Heather's contract begins August 1.

August will be a busy month for me, despite being at Reeb for only two weeks. I'm looking forward to the Pride Parade – I'll be marching with the Queers for Racial Equity, and hope you will do the same. I'm going to be planning a solidarity event that evening for those of us who can't answer the UUA's call to Ferguson. I'll be facilitating retreats with the Board and several committees, to remind ourselves of our vision and mission. And I'll be planning for adult religious education and small group ministry/chalice circles. Please let me know if you're interested in helping to create or facilitate these programs!

In anticipation of all this, I'm recalling something I learned last year. The work we do together is multifaceted and intersectional. There are many aspects to each task and event – the pastoral work of helping people remember to take care of themselves (or helping to take care of them), the prophetic work of urging us ever closer to a just and equitable world, the institutional work of reminding us of our goals and vision, and the preaching and stewardship that support our ministry. No task is just one of these aspects; they are as interconnected as we are with each other.

May we continue to embrace these connections as we move toward our hopes and dreams.

In faith and love. Karen

August 10 AM Sunday Services

- 8/2 **“Hymn Sing: Connection Through Music”**
Rachel Avery
Doug Erickson and Rachel Avery will provide the music.
- 8/9 **“Pride”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
There is sometimes a difference between what is legal, and what is moral. We'll explore that difference in the intersecting issues of queer and racial justice. Where is equity a reality, and where is it still a hope? Heather Yonker will provide the music.
- 8/16 **“Hopes and Dreams for Happiness”**
Carin Bringelson
Happiness is everywhere in our culture. Who *wouldn't* want to be happy? However, sometimes the pressure to be -- or at least *appear* -- happy can cause emotional backfire. What does happiness actually look like in our lives? And how can we enjoy ourselves authentically?
- 8/23 **“American Dream”**
Craig McComb
Work hard and get ahead. Right? Well, maybe not so much in recent decades. A UU look at growing and solidifying inequality in this country. Heather Yonker will provide the music.
- 8/30 **“The Blessing of the Animals”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
Join us as we explore the sacred connection we have with the animals on our Earth and in our care. Rev. Karen will also lead a ritual of blessing for our pets and their humans. Heather Yonker will provide the music.



Madison Pride Parade

August 9th at 1 pm

We will March as

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE
with First Unitarian and Prairie UU
Behind Black Lives Matter

Join us between the 500 & 600 blocks of
State Street before 1 pm

March up to and around Capitol Square!
Vendors and food carts will be available
<http://lgbt Outreach.org/>

**We have a vehicle with room for
Three people! To reserve a seat, contact
Elizabeth at office@jruuc.org**



Minister's Office hours for August

Rev. Karen will be in the office August 4-6
and August 25-26. Please call or text for an
appointment.

**Out of office August 10-14, 17-20, and 27-
29:** Rev. Karen will be on study leave, and
away from email. Please call or text her for
emergencies only.

August 21-23: Rev. Karen will be on
vacation, and away from email and phone.
Please call Cindy Rudd at 244-8428 if you
have a pastoral emergency, and she will
contact Jim Jaeger.

Sunday, August 30th

Meet & Greet with Rev. Karen!

New and returning 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 AM.



Michael Brown Solidarity Event **Sunday, August 9th**

August 9 will mark one year since the
murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson. Our
UUA MidAmerica Region is calling for
allies to come to Ferguson to show support,
and for those who can't make it to attend or
plan a solidarity event.

Rev. Karen is working with other Madison
clergy to plan a vigil. Please keep your
Standing on the Side of Love shirt on after
the Pride Parade. Join us to mark this
solemn and important time and to stand with
Black Lives Matter Movement.

Watch your email for details as they emerge.



President's Column

A Quaker Experience

I recently attended a Quaker-style service, which included queries, the clerk's testimony, and a time of worshipful silence. Though I knew about the Quakers, this was the first time I had ever participated in one of their services or meetings. It was both moving and educational.

Format

The queries were three questions the clerk asked us to consider. The clerk's testimony was like a pastoral thought, providing his "answer" to the queries. Then, we entered the time of worshipful silence, where we could ponder our responses to the queries within ourselves or stand and share with the assembled group. We were asked to view the statements as God speaking through us, to avoid responding to others' statements when we spoke, and to allow for time in between each person's statement. The clerk said possibly no one would feel moved to speak, and that would be okay, too.

Expectations Blown

I wasn't sure what to expect, but quietly guessed that very few participants, if any, would speak. I assumed that the largely Christian, mostly middle-aged and older people there would not feel comfortable with standing and speaking as the voice of God through them. I was very wrong. Someone stood up pretty early into the time of worshipful silence before being followed by a slow, steady stream of statements after that. I am guessing about eight people in this gathering of approximately 50 spoke.

The clerk had asked that speakers keep in mind that, unlike prayer, our words should be statements/opinions/thoughts, not requests and supplication. He said that rather than us speaking to God, this was to be God speaking *through* us. While some still prayed to God, some speakers really did make statements—about forgiveness, humility, simplicity. In between statements, we sat in shared awareness. I felt completely calm and unhurried, able to sit with my thoughts and digest what people were saying.

A Call to Simplicity

The clerk's testimony was about simplicity—that in our complicated world of technology and multitasking, commercialism and drive for success, it is important that we all take time each day to pause and reconnect with ourselves, with nature, with God who is in all things.

It was a little hard for me to hear so much capitol-G God language, and is equally hard to write it so much here. But, if I remind myself that this is just one word to describe what I consider to be "love" and "life force," and what others consider to be "spirit" or another concept/image, then it feels more comfortable and appropriate.

Just What I Needed

I was so glad to have attended this Quaker-style service. It provided me some time of quiet and calm, much needed after a hectic week with extended family. It offered me good reminders about slowing down and paying attention. And, it exposed me to a style of worship I had not experienced before.

I hope to someday have an opportunity to lead a Quaker-style service at JRUC. I hope you'll attend. In the meantime, **let this be a reminder to you to slow down, to pay attention, and to take time each day to reconnect with the divine within yourself and our world.**

Blessed Be,
Virginia
Virginia Harrison, Board President



Salad Bar Sunday, August 23rd!

Please join members and friends of the congregation at an after-service meal featuring salads.

This event is coordinated by the FUN(d)raising Committee. If you'd like to provide salads, bread, fruit, desert, etc., please contact Cindy Rudd, clrudd47@gmail.com or 608-244 8428.



Financial Update

	June	July through June
Income	\$10,163	\$162,565
Expenses	\$15,533	\$154,037

While this reflects a negative cash flow for the month, we finished the 2014-15 fiscal year on a strong note. After transferring the restricted ministerial discretionary income and the amount we already decided to carry forward into 2015-16, we have a surplus of \$5,618.69. Congratulations JRUUC members and friends!

As many of you know, we discovered July 20th that we have a 2015-16 budget deficit of over \$8,000. The Executive Team and I are considering the options moving forward. Communication will be ongoing.

Line of Credit: JRUUC has renewed its emergency line of credit with Park Bank. This money will be available to us if needed should we incur a major unplanned expense in the coming year. The interest rate for this line of credit has been lowered from last year's 5.5% to 5.25%.

Refinancing Commercial Real Estate Loan: The finance committee is waiting to hear back from Park Bank on the possibility of refinancing our loan for the building to get a lower interest rate.

July was my first month serving as JRUUC treasurer. A big thank you to Art Hackett, Elizabeth Barrett, and Marla McFadden for helping to orient me to the position. I look forward to serving in this role for the next two years.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



Children's Religious Education

It is great to be back as your official Director of Religious Education for the 2015-16 church year! It was a hard thing to lose our daughter Caroline after only one day, but all of your support really made a huge difference in helping us heal so quickly. Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU. Now I'm back and ready to go!

I have a complete confidence that it will be a great year. We have a dedicated Religious Education Committee who have been doing a great job in my absence. Now that I'm back, it means that long-time RE chair Kelly Kearns can go off the Committee! **Thank you Kelly for your MANY years of service!** We are now looking for one or two new members who would be interested in learning the ropes! It is a great way to get involved in the congregation.

The summer has been going really well, with varying numbers of kids of a variety of ages, our teachers have been doing a great job balancing everything! It's going so well, we are extending summer another weekend into Labor Day – September 6th.

Sara Goodman

**Want to know what is
Happening in our Building?
Check the Building Use Calendar**
<http://www.brownbearsw.com/cal/JRUUC>

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.

Mark Your Calendars

Monthly meetings usually happen on the first Saturday of the month, from 10 am - 12 noon. Upcoming meetings are **August 1st** and **September 12th** (due to the Labor Day holiday). Both meetings will take place at JRUUC!

The MOSES Annual Celebration will be **Saturday, October 10th** 4 to 7 pm at Zion City International Church, 1317 Applegate Rd Madison 53713

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

Sustainable Saturdays **The Fourth Sat. each month** **August 22nd at JRUUC**

3:30 pm: Action-taking

5:30 pm: Potluck set-up

6 pm: Eat Dinner

7pm: Program

Everyone is welcome

For more information, contact

Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability

Group meets the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm August 10th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org

Recent Share the Plate Totals

MUM's Healing House	\$158.18
Young Gifted and Black Coalition	\$178.00

Local Food Social Justice

Sign-Up Now for September 12th!

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 leftover 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 remaining dates are **September 12th** and **October 31st**. Contact Jocie Luglio to sign up: jocie.jruuc@gmail.com



JRUUC Campout
Lake Farm County Park
Saturday Sept. 19th --
Sunday Sept. 20th
More details to follow!
Hope you can make it!

Questions?
Contact Sarah Elmore
sselmore@sbcglobal.net
or 257-2712



Stewardship Stirrings

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.

-- John Lubbock

The Stewardship Team is hoping that each of you find some time this summer for rest, self-care, and soaking in all the natural wonders around you. After having our June and July monthly meetings, our team has decided to take a break from our regular monthly meeting in August to do our own relaxing and rejuvenating. We look forward to coming together again in September as we embark on another year of working on our charge "...to maintain and develop the long-term strategic and cultural nurturing of the congregation's time, talent, and treasure."

Some of the specific things we hope to achieve this next year include leading a worship service on Stewardship, coordinating with RE to integrate some new Stewardship ideas into our youth's curriculum, and hosting a book club discussion.

We also look forward to our ongoing work of establishing an endowment, taking care of our physical building, and helping coordinate another successful annual budget drive. To learn more visit: www.jruuc.org/stewardship.



From the Office

I've been finishing up the accounting for our 2014-15 year and beginning 2015-16. This July has not been as quiet as some. I hope to begin August with renewed vigor and a clearer head.

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



Membership News

Interested in becoming a member of James Reeb UU Congregation?

Want a refresher about the history of our denomination and congregation and what it means to be a member?

Save the date for our

**"Exploring Membership" Class
Saturday October 17th 9am-1pm!**

**Radical Hospitality Opportunity –
Be a Greeter!**

Tuesday, September 22nd 7-9 pm

The membership committee is looking for 20 individuals to support our congregation by making a monthly commitment to welcome everyone who comes to JRUUC on Sundays! Benefits include: being part of a team, having a special badge, learning the secrets to making fellowship coffee hour a success, meeting new people and an invitation to an exclusive midyear brunch. Contact Jocie Luglio, jocie.jruuc@gmail.com to sign up. Please plan to attend our **Greeter Training, including gourmet desserts, September 22nd 7-9 pm.**

The 2015-2016 UUA Common Read

***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson**

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Read more about it at:

<http://www.uua.org/re/adults/read>

Community



Opportunity to Serve

Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project

Do you know someone looking for a way to serve our community? A recent high school or college graduate that is looking for an opportunity to explore a new career field, develop professional experience, and help others? A recent retiree or someone looking to change careers?

The Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project is recruiting AmeriCorps members for the 2015-16 school year. Its mission is to work with school staff to increase the literacy skills of students of color and those from low-income families. AmeriCorps members are assigned to one elementary school where they tutor students and also support the community volunteer tutors. The benefits of serving in AmeriCorps are many - professional development, an education award that can be used to repay student loans or for future educational expenses and, for those 55 and older, it can be transferred to a family member. It is a unique opportunity to learn about the Madison community, education, poverty, and the role that community partnerships play in addressing the needs of our community.

For more information on these positions and the benefits, go to Schools of Hope's website at www.schoolsofhope.org. Applications are being accepted now for 26 positions and orientation begins soon.



James Reeb UU Congregation
2146 E. Johnson St.
Madison WI 53704

The Rev. Karen Quinlan, Minister
219/221-3371 Call or Text
revkaren@jruuc.org
Office Hours: Please see page two

Elizabeth J. Barrett, Office Administrator
608/242-8887
office@jruuc.org
Office Hours: TWF 10:30 am to 5:30 pm

Sara Goodman, Director of Religious Education
re@jruuc.org

Heather Yonker, Music Director
(after August 1st)

Virginia Harrison, President
510 Welch Ave
Madison, WI 53704
608/669-2822
harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com

Charlie McNulty, President-elect
2605 Dahle St.
Madison WI 53704
608/334-6060
charlie@kznf.com

Barbara Whitney, Secretary
308 Morningside Ave
Madison, WI 53716
608/221-3938
bwhitney@chi-squared.org

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer
2065 County Rd T
Marshall, WI 53559
608/957-9320
jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com

The JRUUC *East Breeze* newsletter is published each month. To submit items, please email Elizabeth Barrett by the 20th of each month.