

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin

Volume 24, Number 1 — January 2016

Connections

Happy New Year! With the start of 2016, I find myself looking ahead to what this year might bring for me and for us. At JRUC, we're starting the Search process for our new Director of Religious Education; I hope you'll be part of the conversations that will happen about the vision for our children's programming. We'll be starting a monthly movie night next month – an opportunity for Reebers to gather for pizza, educational entertainment, and discussion. I'm gathering an Anti-Racism Core Team, who will work with me to choose programs and actions that will continue our momentum in this area. Kelly Kearns is gathering a task force to explore whether there's interest in forming a partnership with another Madison congregation. And I'm looking forward to attending the second of three sessions in a ministers' seminar on congregation-based spiritual direction later this month.

Looking ahead can take courage, and so courage is what we'll be exploring this month in worship and our covenant groups. Courage is a factor in so many parts of our lives and our faith journeys – the courage to embark on and stick with personal exploration, the courage to maintain and act on our convictions, the courage to explore new possibilities, the courage to engage in justice work, the courage to simply step outside of our doors on some days. I find that I'm most often able to be courageous when I have people around me with whom I can be open about my hopes and fears for myself and for the world.

January can be a dreary month. The joyful winter holidays, with their lights and singing, are behind us, and the days ahead are longer but cold and sometimes lonely. May we bring each other warmth and courage as we move ahead into the New Year!

In faith and love,
Karen

January theme: Courage

Take courage, friends. The way is often hard, the path is never clear, and the stakes are very high. Take courage. For deep down, there is another truth: you are not alone.

- Rev. Wayne Arnason

Check-in question: Has anything happened in the course of your day/week/month where you had to summon up courage?

January 10 AM Sunday Services Courage

- 1/3 "The Burning Bowl"**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
This week we begin our next circle around the sun together. During today's multigenerational service, we'll participate in a fire communion to ritually bolster our courage as we seal our intentions and lose our hesitations, moving into the New Year. Heather Yonker and the JRUC Choir will provide the music.
- 1/10 "The Courage to Create"**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
Human beings are creative beings! And there are so many ways to create. Today we'll explore some of those ways, and the courage we need to find to let that creativity flow.
- 1/17 "Making a Way Out of No Way"**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
Process theology is an understanding of a co-creative process between us, and between us and the Holy. This morning, we'll explore the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the lens of process theology, and how we may be inspired and encouraged by the idea of co-creating a just and equitable world. Heather Yonker and the JRUC Choir will provide the music.
- 1/24 "Insuring Reeb"**

**John Mathis, Derek Peterson, and
Barbara Whitney**

To many of us, the Reeb congregation acts like an extended family, providing many benefits but also requiring care. This service will explore Reeb's needs beyond its day-to-day expenses. We'll explore how a new mechanism, the Endowment Fund, will allow us to provide Reeb stability into the future, somewhat like life insurance does for our real family. Doug Erickson will provide the music.

1/31 "Help!"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Asking for help can be hard! In today's multigenerational service, we'll explore our hesitations around asking for help, and how it can be mutually beneficial. Heather Yonker will provide the music.



**Minister's Office hours for
January**

Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at JRUC

Thursdays, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, at Café Zoma on
Atwood Ave.

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment

Please note that Rev. Karen will be out of the office for a ministers' seminar January 25-28, and will be checking email mornings and evenings while away. There will be no office hours January 27 or 28.

**Meet & Greet with Rev. Karen
Sunday, January 10**

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 around 11:30 am.



President's Column

Congregational Conversations

The Board of Trustees is interested in hearing from congregants about what they like and what they want changed or explored. Over the next several months, we will be holding conversations to hear from congregants about two topics: The Covenant of Right Relations and a congregational partnership.

Covenant of Right Relations

In May of 2013, the congregation voted to affirm a Covenant of Right Relations, mapping out ways in which we want to be in relationship with one another: Member to Self, Member to Member, Member to Leadership, Member to Minister, Member to Staff, and Member to Larger Community. You can see it at www.jruuc.org/covenant-right-relations-0. Now that a couple of years have passed, the Board believes it is time to revisit the Covenant. It is written to reflect a shared vision, and as such is intended to evolve over the years. Watch for information of upcoming World Cafes where we will deepen our understanding of the Covenant and have meaningful discussions about it.

**Congregational Partnership Exploration
Task Force**

The Board is putting together a task force to determine from the congregation if it wants to consider a partnership with another congregation to expand our spiritual and personal connections by engaging in activities together. If the task force determines that members and friends wish to explore the possibilities of a congregational partnership, then a proposal will go before the congregational meeting in May. Again, watch for information about opportunities to offer input on whether or not our congregation should pursue this idea.

I look forward to having these conversations with you, and I hope that 2016 brings each of you what you hope for most.

Blessed Be,
Virginia

Virginia Harrison, Board President

Congregational Partnership Exploration Task Force Being Formed

As Virginia Harrison noted in her column, the Board of Trustees would like to know if this congregation is interested in creating a partnership with another congregation to expand our spiritual, personal, and cultural connections by engaging in activities together. The task force will get feedback from the congregation to gauge the level of interest. If the congregation is supportive, this may be voted on at the congregational meeting in May.

If you are interested in the idea and willing to help solicit input from the congregation, please contact the Reverend Karen or Kelly Kearns: kearns@uwalumni.com.



Financial Update

	November	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$19,551	\$88,456
Expenses	\$12,932	\$66,677

We had a positive cash flow in November of \$6,619, thanks in large part to a wonderfully successful Reeb Rave! \$6,575 was raised from the auction in November. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun event! We are still on track to meet our expenses for the year.

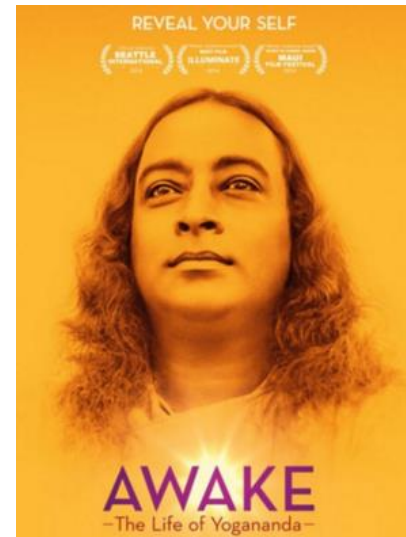
Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

SAVE THE DATE!

Appreciation Reception for
Fair Share Givers

Friday, February 19

See more information in the
“Stewardship Stirrings” article
Later in this newsletter.



Yogananda Movie Sunday, January 10 at 3:30 pm

Did you not have your calendar at the Reeb Rave back in November? Are you interested in watching an unconventional biography about the Hindu Swami who brought yoga and meditation to the West in the 1920s?

Please join Bev Buhr and Carin Bringelson for popcorn and a viewing of the film **AWAKE: The Life of Yogananda** January 10, 3:30-6 pm in our **Sanctuary**. Donations to benefit JRUC will be accepted at the door: \$5-\$10 sliding scale. More details about the film are at: <http://www.awaketheyoganandamovie.com>



Soup & Grilled Cheese Fundraiser! **Sunday, January 17**

Please join members and friends of this Congregation for good food and Conversation at an after-service meal. Interested in providing soup, dessert, or fruit? Please contact Cindy Rudd at 608-469-5269 or clrudd47@gmail.com.

Suggested donation \$6/adult, \$3 for kids.
Coordinated by the FUN(d)raising Committee



Religious Education

January begins another exciting semester in Religious Education! Harry Potter fans, get your wands ready! We will be starting our four-week Harry Potter intersession December 27th, with a break for a Multigenerational Burning Bowl service January 3rd, and ending January 24th. All kids are welcome and will participate together, wizards and muggles alike! Contact Stephanie Thurow (athenaprintz@gmail.com) if you'd like to help lead this exciting curriculum!

We are also completing our year-long Our Whole Lives program this month. Our 7th-9th grade youth have been meeting monthly since early 2015 to learn about healthy sexuality and relationships, and it will be coming to an end this month. But never fear youth, we are getting ready to start the Coming of Age program in February, and ALL of our youth (6th grade up to 18 years old) are invited to participate.

In January the RE Committee will be celebrating our teaching volunteers at a special Teacher Thank You Brunch on January 24th! We are excited that so many wonderful people have been able to help us out this year!

If you would like to sign up to teach, bring snacks, or have any questions about religious education, please contact Sara Goodman at re@jruuc.org

Sara

Music Matters at JRUUC



*Warming up for the Solstice celebration
December 19, 2015*

What an exceptional season of music at James Reeb, with original music, large groups, trios, solos and guest instrumentalists! Amidst confused crocuses and blooming snapdragons, we sprang into Winter Solstice preparations this past month. Thank you to each and every person who made it such a beautiful event. Sparks and light are spreading throughout, and by January we'll be on "Fire, so be sure to come for the January 3rd service!

January's Hymn of the Month will be "Ring Out Wild Bells!" We hope to help the congregation become more familiar with music from our hymnals and know the joy of singing! Thank you all for the expressions of support and gratitude for the music.

Keep the fires burning and the bells ringing throughout the coming New Year!

Cheers!

Heather Yonker





Spotlight on Heather Yonker, Director of Music

As a member of the choir, I have the pleasure of getting to learn from our new music director, but I was thinking that other members of the JRUUC congregation might not yet know Heather Yonker.

Heather became our music director in August of this year, bringing with her a wealth of experience and talent. She has a Master of Music degree and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. She is also fluent in Spanish and has a passion for the Argentine tango, both the music and the dance. Working with children and adults of all ages, she has offered private instruction in piano, music theory, composition, and voice, and has taught at K-12 schools and at the college level. A producer and writer of musicals, her composition “My House” was premiered at Reeb this fall by the choir.



Nov 22, 2015, Special music provided by the JRUUC choir. “My House” written and directed by Heather Yonker

Under Heather’s skilled direction, the choir is working on developing a mature sound. She is helping us focus on what we’re saying as much as how we’re singing the notes and encouraging us to really listen to each other. The creativity and intention that Heather brings to each rehearsal are a big part of why I look forward to Thursday nights!

You can learn more about Heather’s background on the JRUUC website: <http://www.jruuc.org/staff>.

I would like to conclude with a shameless plug for the JRUUC choir. If you have been on the fence, now is a great time to consider joining. We could particularly use some more baritone/tenor/bass voices!

Rachel Avery, Co-Chair for the Worship and Music Team and choir member

Justice at JRUUC



Giving Tree a Huge Success

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Giving Tree! We collected four boxfuls of socks, pencils, playing cards, stamped envelopes, underwear, calendars, reading glasses, t-shirts, composition books, spiritual texts, and art supplies. All the items will be distributed to inmates in the Dane County Jail via the Chaplains there. We also wrote Holiday greetings to brighten their Christmas. The generosity of the Reeb community is an inspiration!



Updates 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 -- and advocate for other change in Wisconsin, too.

Upcoming monthly meetings are **Saturday, Jan. 9th** (at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd.) and **Saturday, Feb. 6th** (at TBA). Socializing with coffee and cookies starts at 9:30am; the meetings usually run 10 am – Noon.

The December meeting included anti-racism discussion, updates on the local Ban the Box successes, an overview of sentencing in Wisconsin, and moving testimonials about being caught up in the system unjustly.

All are welcome to attend monthly conference calls to learn more about Old Law Parole, Keeping People Out of Prison, Solitary Confinement Reform, and/or Post-release Support.

If you have questions about MOSES (or want to get an ROC Wisconsin Prayer Card) contact Carin at cmbringe@gmail.com or see <http://www.rocwisconsin.org/> or <http://mosesmadison.org/>.

News from the Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

We meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm January 11. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org

Dignity at Work Coalition

The PJS group is beginning a new partnership with other individuals and groups in our community who are dedicated to social and economic justice for ALL Wisconsin workers.

Various people came together originally last spring over a conversation about raising the minimum wage to a living wage. **We discovered that we all care about fair pay, stable and predictable hours, paid sick leave, paid family and medical leave, affordable quality child care, accessible public transportation, an end to racial discrimination in hiring and firing, and more.**

A commitment to continue to explore how we might work together on issues of mutual concern resulted in the official naming of the coalition this fall: Dignity at Work Coalition. Some of the groups that are part of this newly formed coalition include: WI Faith Voices for Justice, Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, WI Jobs NOW (which coordinates the Fight for Fifteen campaign), WI Alliance for Women's Health, WI Chapter of NAACP, the WI Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and WI Network for Peace and Justice.

The PJS see our participation as part of a larger call from the UUA, which adopted as a study action item the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor in our country. In addition to the coalition, right here at Reeb several individuals met in a study group this fall to explore the issue of income inequality. It is our intent to go deeper into this conversation and invite others to join us in the coming months. If you'd like to know more, contact **Peggy Haack** peggyhaack@gmail.com (regarding the Coalition)

Chris Glad chrisgladwalks@gmail.com (regarding a JRUUC study group).

Recent Share the Plate Totals

Options in Community Living	\$198.00
Dreamweavers, Inc.	\$178.00
GCC Thanksgiving & Food Pantry	\$202.00
Jail Chaplain's Discretionary Fund	\$236.00

January 24, 3-4 PM

at First Unitarian Society

Children Are Not Colorblind - How to Talk With Children about Race

We've heard the myth that children "don't notice race." Many adults avoid discussing race or racism with children, worrying that conversations will put negative ideas in children's heads. Research suggests otherwise.

This is a free event open to the public. RSVP to rachaeld@fusmadison.org
Childcare available on request:
<http://www.fusmadison.org/childcare>

Dr. Erin Winkler will describe current research on how young children understand race: how ideas of race form, why and when they form, and why it matters. She will also discuss the importance of talking about race with young children in age-appropriate, empowering ways. Come to listen, engage, and ask questions.





Stewardship Stirrings

Fair Share Givers are those JRUUC members/friends who pledge to donate 2-10% of their income to the congregation. See the guide at: http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/fair_share_contribution_guide.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.

Do you consider yourself a Fair Share Giver? If so, please come to an **Appreciation Reception on Friday, February 19, 2016 at 7-8:30 p.m.** at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society (2010 Whenona Drive)! We want to celebrate your generosity!

We celebrate Fair Share Giving because pledges make up over 80% of the income in our operating budget. Obviously, we heavily depend upon congregants to support JRUUC at a level that is commensurate with their ability — and Fair Share Givers do exactly that! Learn more about the Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide at: <http://www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/budget/151840.shtml>



Thank you corner: Foodies!

Every month the Stewardship Team will thank volunteers that help make our various programs run smoothly when they donate their time and talent. This month, we're highlighting one of our long-term Social Action projects: Food Justice via the Community Action Coalition.

Every summer the Community Action Coalition assigns JRUUC three Saturdays when Reebers collect leftovers from the vendors at the Dane

County Farmers' Market. Meeting around 12 noon for about an hour, 8-10 volunteers collect around 8 cartloads of vegetables, fruits, and other goodies. These vendors donate their locally grown and produced foods to the food pantries and meal sites of Dane County via the Community Action Coalition's distribution network.

Great big thanks to the Food Justice coordinator **Jocie Luglio**. Folks who volunteered during the 2015 season include: **Benny Luglio, Carin Bringleston, Catherine Quinlan, Chris Glad, Cindy Rudd, Colleen O'Hara, Craig McComb, Ellie Dillenburg, Joan Kemble, Jocie Luglio, Karen Quinlan, Kelly Kearns, Leila Pine, Mary Schaper, Mary Wagner, Megan Barry-Luglio, Paul Quinlan, Peggy Haack, Virginia Harrison, and other friends**. Thank you for your service!

Insuring JRUUC's Future

Many of us think of JRUUC ("Reeb") as our extended family because of the benefits it brings through its services, many personal interactions, and contributions to social justice. Like any family, Reeb needs our Tender Loving Care and our stewardship to keep it healthy and prepared for the uncertain events that the future will surely bring. This coming May, our congregation will consider important changes to our congregational bylaws that should create an Endowment Fund to provide fiscal stability and security, plus future income. This article outlines our plans for clarifying the present proposals for such a Fund.

The congregational meeting adopting the rules regarding the Endowment Fund will be held next May 15, along with the budget and election of next year's officers. Well before then, we will inform you what that vote will mean, and why we might want to have an Endowment Fund.

We will do this in several ways:

- A. We will have a regular congregational service on these and related issues on **January 24**.
- B. We will circulate copies of the proposed rules well before the service. We will use the means by which the weekly newsletter is distributed (electronically

and with a few hard copies available and on the website).

- C. Immediately after the January 24 service, we will conduct a Forum in the sanctuary. This will consist of a brief summary of the proposed changes, followed by a request for suggestions, comments, and questions. We want your input into the process!
- D. We will have other forums (fora) later, along with more *East Breeze* articles. Before the final congregational meeting, you should be acquainted with the purposes and nature of the Endowment Fund.

You may have heard of an endowment fund that we already have, established by a generous anonymous donation. It is morally regarded as the future Endowment Fund, but there are no explicit rules regarding its management. We want to adopt *legal* restraints on disbursements of such funds.

Joining you in wanting a healthier and stronger Reeb,
The (temporary) Endowment Committee:
John Mathis, Derek Peterson, and Barb Whitney



Annual Budget Drive: Save the date!
The Annual Budget Drive kickoff will be
During the Sunday Service March 6th

This year we will hold **cottage meetings** in the first few weeks of March as part of the Annual Budget Drive to connect through shared stewardship. Cottage meetings are informal, small-group meetings held in the homes of congregants or at JRUUC. These meetings will provide another chance to get to know each other better and share what feeds us at JRUUC and our hopes for the coming year.

Are you interested in hosting a cottage meeting? Please contact Shaili Pfeiffer for more details at 241-0884 or shailipfeiffer@hotmail.com if you might be interested. Note that cottage meeting hosts are only responsible for hosting the gathering, but that an annual budget drive representative will facilitate the meeting program.



I wish it would snow!

From the Office

No doubt, you've noticed how full and exciting this January *East Breeze* is! At the beginning of December, I guessed that the first newsletter of 2016 would be very short – four pages. Delighted to be wrong, I'm also energized by reading all the wonderful events coming up. What a great time to be involved here at JRUUC! You rock.

Yesterday at our staff holiday lunch I realized how important the upcoming holidays are as chances at rest a bit in order to be bushy-tailed for 2016. This applies to everyone involved in this congregation, especially all the people who had/have a role in any of our services.

Wishing you peaceful and happy holidays!
Elizabeth J. Barrett, Office Administrator

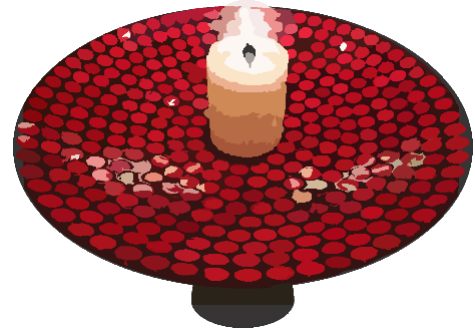


Winter WomanSpirit 2016
February 5 thru 7

Recognizing Our Calling
with Reverend Kate Braestrup
First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park, Chicago
Registration fee is just \$175
through December 31!

The fee includes: keynote address by Kate Braestrup, all-conference workshop (led by Kate), plus two other workshops of your choice, lunch and some wonderful shopping with woman-centric vendors. In addition, our Friday night concert features Artemis Singers – Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus! Find more information at:
<http://www.womenandreligion.org>

JANUARYE



MidAmerica Regional Assembly April 29 – May 1 in St. Paul *The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism*

We will look at WHO we want to be as faith communities in the coming years.

Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant? How will we get there? Who will be joining us on this journey?

It is with great excitement that we announce our keynote presenters to help us explore these questions.

- **Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen**, Leadership Development Associate for Youth and Young Adults of Color at the UUA;
- **Rev. Jeremy Nickel**, minister of the Mission Peak UU congregation in Fremont, CA;
- **Kenny Wiley**, UU World senior editor and Director of Faith Formation at Prairie UU Church in Parker, CO.

They each will present highlights of their own work as they look forward to the future of Unitarian Universalism. There will be conversations with each other and they will take questions from participants.

And, as always at Regional Assembly, we will have worship services to inspire us and workshops to stimulate our thinking, along with plenty of opportunities to have fun with new and old UU friends.



Save the Date

2016 Building on Faith Kick-off
Habitat for Humanity of Dane County
Tuesday, February 9
6:30-8:30 pm

Closing racial disparities and socioeconomic gaps through Habitat for Humanity of Dane County's housing ministry. Join us for an evening of inspiration, fellowship, and thoughtful discussions. Upper House, 365 East Campus Mall Suite 200, between University Avenue and West Johnson Street

Join us for a screening of *Briars in the Cottonpatch*, a documentary that takes a deep look into Habitat's origination on Koinonia Farm, a community where people chose to live and work together in the South during the Civil Rights era. See the remarkable events that tested moral boundaries and planted the seed for local and global work of Habitat.

Discussions will be held afterwards about the social injustices we see in Dane County and how affordable housing can be a solution.



Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2016** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!



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Newsletter submissions may be emailed to office@jruuc.org. The soft deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month at 5 pm. Please limit articles to 200 words. Please be careful not to include sensitive information.