

EAST BREEZE

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

Volume 24, Number 3 — March 2016

Connections

Welcome to Spring! Light and energy are growing outside, as well as within our congregation. And at the same time, there are manifestations of darkness in our community with which we need to engage. This is a fitting time for us to consider the idea of balance.

We begin our yearly conversation about balancing our books on March 6, with our Annual Budget Drive kickoff. Our ABD Team – Shaili Pfeiffer, Heike Saynisch, and Carin Bringelson – has worked hard to organize cottage meetings, in which you're invited to share your hopes and dreams for JRUC, and turn in your financial commitment form. Part of that conversation will focus on our vision for our children's Religious Education program, as we're in Search for our new Director. You may recall that we held a world café-style session last year to gather information on our vision for RE; my hope is that these conversations will contribute to our understanding of where the program is now, and how it fits into the larger congregational experience.

March 6 also marks the one-year anniversary of Tony Robinson's death. Events are being planned by his family and friends. I'll open a space for us to be together before the March for Justice on the 6th. We've been having some rich conversations about our experiences engaging with the Black Lives Matter Movement, and I'll keep offering opportunities to talk. I'm also looking forward to participating in the "Who Are Our Neighbors" workshop with you, on March 18 and 19.

I want to mention, too, how excited I am about our growing involvement in collaborative work with the other two UU congregations in Madison. Just as each of us often find we can do more when we're working with others in our congregation, so can each congregation contribute to an engaged UU justice team in Madison.

In faith and love,
Karen

March 10 AM Sunday Services

March Theme: Balance

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." -- Albert Einstein

3/6 "Tending the Flame"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

This kickoff for our annual budget drive will include the dedication of our Stewardship Ambassadors, the story of "Scare City and a Bun Dance," the Sermon on the Amount, and the dedication and farewell blessing of our new and old pianos. Heather Yonker and the JRUC Choir will provide the music.

3/13 "Resilience: Balancing Despair and Hope"

Jim Coakley

The immigrant justice program sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice is an emotional roller coaster. It continuously jolts participants from the despair of death and prison to the hope driven resilience of immigrants and their advocates. It's a reminder of why keeping an emotional balance is so important when doing justice work. Jim serves the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship as a part time consulting minister, and attended seminary with Rev. Karen.

3/20 "Practicing Balance"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

The Spring Equinox is the time that day and night are once again of equal length – a time of balance between light and dark, rest and activity. For just one moment, every year, our Earth hangs in the balance before moving into a time of growing light and energy. We'll mark this time by exploring balance in our own spiritual lives relationships.

3/27 "Balance and Imbalance"

Amy Owen

Balance is often presented to us as an ideal to strive for, but can the banner of balance hide us from growth, change, or challenge that would benefit our lives? How do we strive for both balance in our own lives and justice in the world? We'll explore these questions along with being in balance with your body, with nature, and with your community. The JRUUC Choir will sing.

Check-in question: In what practice(s) do you engage with the hope of finding some sense of balance?



Minister's Office hours for March

Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at JRUUC
Thursdays, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, at Café Zoma on Atwood Ave.

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment.

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

Rev. Karen will be out of the office on study leave March 23-26. There will be no office hours that week.

Meet & Greet with Rev. Karen Sunday, March 20th

New and returning visitors are invited to spend some time in conversation with each other, Membership Committee members, and Minister Karen Quinlan. We will have a designated table at the soup and grilled cheese fundraising lunch after service.



President's Column

Thank You!

We had a gathering of Reeb members in February that self-identified as “Fair Share”^{*} givers during last year's Annual Budget Drive. Unfortunately, many were unable to attend. I would like to reprint my remarks here for those who had to miss the clever, campfire-themed event.

“Because of your contributions, our music program is strong, bringing an important element of spiritual energy and shared experience into our worship services and other programming.

“Because of your contributions, we were able to bring our administrator up in salary and hours, putting her compensation more in line with both the UUA Fair Share standards, but also commensurate with all of the many ways she brings added value to her work.

“Because of your contributions, our ministry is soaring. Worship, pastoral care, social justice efforts, and community engagement are at levels above and beyond what we have had before. And in the coming year, we will bring our minister's compensation up to appropriate levels as well, because our minister is due for fair pay for her exemplary leadership and inspiring, thoughtful worship services.

“Finally, because of you, we will be able to revitalize the Religious Education program with the recruitment and retention of a new Director of Religious Education and continue to offer enriching curriculum and classes for lifespan RE.

“Thank you, one and all, for your generosity and depth of heart. Without you, Reeb wouldn't be nearly what it is today, nor be able to meet the ever-growing needs of our Beloved Community.”

Blessed Be,
Virginia Harrison,
Board President

^{*}Fair Share recognizes people have varying capacities to give, based on their resources and other financial responsibilities, while providing recognition for giving at various levels.



Events for Tony Robinson, March 5 and 6

Several events are being organized by Tony’s family and friends to mark the one-year anniversary of his death.

March 5, 5 - 10 pm: Celebration of Tony’s Life, community dinner at the Harlem Renaissance Museum, 1444 East Washington Ave.

March 6, 3 pm: March for Justice, starting at the Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St.

March 6, 6:30 pm: Candlelight Vigil, 1125 Williamson St.

Rev. Karen will lead a prayer circle for those who wish to gather before the March for Justice on the 6th – we’ll meet at JRUUC at 2:15 for the prayer circle, and we’ll share rides to the March at 2:45.



Who Are Our Neighbors? INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY Intercultural Competency Workshop March 18 and 19

Growing and deepening our capacity for successful multicultural ministries and stronger intercultural relationships is critical to the fulfillment of our vision for Unitarian Universalism and building the Beloved Community. This weekend workshop will help you gain new tools and concepts in moving yourself, and your congregation, toward your goals.

Register here:

<https://www.midamericauua.org/events/eventdetail/569/-/intercultural-competency-workshop-madison-wi>

Please let Rev. Karen know if you’re able to provide home hospitality for out-of-town participants.



Financial Update

	January	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$12,197	\$121,080
Expenses	\$ 1,703	\$ 92,232

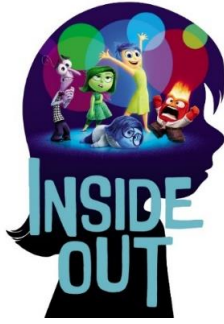
We had a positive cash flow again in January and are still on track for the year.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

Bylaws Updates

The JRUUC Board of Trustees has been hard at work revising the bylaws to make them easier to read, to bring them into conformance with our current practices, to add gender identity or expression into our inclusion statement, and to add a new article to establish an endowment fund. We will make the proposed bylaws, summary of changes, and endowment resolution available to all via the web, email and some printed copies within the next few weeks. We will hold several for a between now and the Congregational meeting in May to get your feedback and make any modifications before we vote on them at the meeting. Stay tuned for information coming soon!

--Barb Whitney, JRUUC Secretary



Join us for Reeb Movie Night!

For the next three months at least, we will have a monthly movie night on the first Friday. Come this Friday, March 4 at 6 pm for a showing of *Inside Out*. This is a great animated movie for all ages about a girl uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco. Her emotions – Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust, and Sadness – conflict on how best to navigate a new city, home, and school. *Inside Out* recently won an Academy Award for Best Animated Movie.

We'll have popcorn and can order pizza as a group once we see how many show up. Questions? Contact Kelly at kearns@uwalumni.com



Religious Education

We're looking forward to an exciting month here at Reeb! We're kicking off our year-long Coming of Age Program for youth 12-18, starting March 12th! If you or your child are interested, contact Sara at re@jruuc.org before March 6th.

In preparation for an awesome Easter Celebration, we will create artwork at the multigenerational worship service March 6th.

Our 6+ classroom is looking for two additional assistants for Sunday mornings! If you have a dry sense of humor and enjoy thinking about big ideas, let the RE committee or Sara Goodman know as soon as possible.

Sara Goodman, Director of Religious Education



The DRE Search Continues

The DRE Job Description has been finalized. You can see it on our website at:
<http://www.jruuc.org/sites/default/files/JRUUCDREJobDescription.pdf>

What a wonderful opportunity for some lucky person! This job description has been posted in all of the JRUUC communications as well as the UU administration and LREDA, the national UU organization of religious educators. It has also been posted on the MidAmerica (our region) website and to the Wisconsin Council of Churches. It will also be seen on the UW Job Board, in the Madison Times and Hues Magazine. It is posted with the Urban League and Craigslist. It seems we should get some good responses! Applications are due by March 10.

Your Stewardship Ambassador may be asking you what your dreams for the RE program are at the Cottage Meetings. Make sure you speak up! We would love to hear what is in your heart and mind. If you think of something outside of those meetings, be sure to mention your thought to Larry Orr at (608) 516-1823 or elkayo@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be to create a rubric or scoring tool to assess our criteria and also to create interview questions. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers

Mary Wagner, for the DRE Search Committee

Sarah Elmore, Chair, Caroline Harden, Larry Orr, Mary Wagner, and Rev. Karen



Music Matters at JRUUC



Musically and spiritually, we will March straight from February's healthy expressions of anger into a compassionate reverence for Balance in our lives. Kicking off the month we will be "Taking Care of This House" both literally and figuratively. Keep tending that flame! We can all enjoy the "Abundance" provided by this gracious community and the many blessings that we experience because of our hearts being in the right place. Generous hearts have drawn other generous hearts, and so goes the connective linking that spreads and creates the strong bonds of community. **I am so pleased to announce that a wonderful grand piano has been donated to JRUUC.**

With deep gratitude, we thank Bob and Cindy Nelson of Whitewater for providing us with a beautiful instrument, contributing to the love and sustenance of music in our services and in our lives. Thanks also to the board for their part in making this happen, to Jim Dew and his cohort for moving the piano safely into the sanctuary, to Bob Hohf, master piano technician, who not only connected me to the Nelsons but also tended to minor repairs and maintenance, and tuned the piano into beautiful shape. In addition, thank you to an anonymous donor for a contribution to the church, toward assuring we are able to take care of things like tuning and maintenance. It's no secret, "I Love a Piano!" Please join us in a welcoming ceremony for this piano, on March 6th, as well as a heartfelt farewell to the upright grand, donated by Ken and Christine Ohst in 1996. It has provided us with so many good years of musical service.

Also this month we honor long-time choir member **Tom Kemble**. Tom has been singing with the JRUUC Choir since he joined in 2012 and has been singing in choirs for many years! He is a role model of dedication, preparation, commitment, generosity, skill, talent and enthusiasm. I aspire to such an amazing attitude and I am humbly grateful for all of the time and energy that he has put forth. At Tom's request, we will sing Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" on the 27th of March. "Mother Earth, Beloved Garden" will be our hymn of the month. I will enjoy hearing you sing it, with all of the anticipation and hopefulness of the coming spring!



"Circle Round,"
Heather Yonker, Music Director



Soup & Grilled Cheese Fundraiser! Sunday, March 20

Please join members and friends of this Congregation for good food and Conversation at an after-service meal.

Interested in providing soup?

Please contact Cindy Rudd at 608-244-8428 or clrudd47@gmail.com.

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

Justice at JRUUC



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.

A great big thanks to the Reebers (Joan Kemble, Beth & Ila Esser, Colleen O'Hara, Janice Knapp-Cordes, Bev Buhr, and Carin Bringelson) who attended the February 4th Listening Session regarding Wisconsin's Dept. of Corrections. Lots of testimonials were shared regarding crimeless revocations, denial of parole for Old Law Prisoners, solitary confinement, compassionate release, and water contamination at Fox Lake Correctional Institution.

The February MOSES meeting was attended by Reeb members Mary Anglim and Colleen O'Hara. The general meeting included a presentation by Carol Rubin about "Crimeless Revocation in Wisconsin" followed by a Q&A session. Following the general meeting, the Leadership Board met regarding changes to the voting procedures as described in the bylaws. No decision was made and the issue was tabled for further discussion at the May Leadership Board meeting.

Upcoming monthly meetings are Sat. March 5th (at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd) and Sat. April 2nd (location TBA). Socializing with coffee and cookies starts at 9:30 am; the meetings usually run 10 am to noon.

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

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

We meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm March 14. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org

Sustainable Saturday Night March 26th is the 4th Saturday Potluck at 6pm. Program starts at 7pm.

The theme is Grassroots neighborhood community building projects. We will hear from a number of neighborhood activists as well as a member of the national group "Represent Us," which is working to eliminate the effects of big money and corruption in our political system. We will conclude with a public discussion & brainstorming about things we could do to improve our own neighborhoods. For more information call Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633.

Recent Share the Plate Totals

Mission of Hope of Flint MI	\$220.00
Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus	\$122.50



Remembering the Rev. James Reeb

Friday, March 11th marks 51 years since the Rev. Reeb died after being physically attacked in Selma, Alabama for being in solidarity with the work of registering African Americans voters. The Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group invites you to honor our namesake and reflect on this passage of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s eulogy for James Reeb: "So in his death, James Reeb says something to each of us, black and white alike — says that we must substitute courage for caution, says to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered him, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy that produced the murder. His death says to us that we must work passionately, unrelentingly, to make the American dream a reality, so he did not die in vain."



Last year our Rev. Karen Quinlan attended the "Conference Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign" and visited Selma along with JRUUC members Carin Bringelson and Bev Buhr. Learn more about the Rev. Reeb at: <http://www.jruuc.org/who-was-james-reeb>



Membership News

Exploring Membership Class Saturday, April 9th

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

Join us for our "Exploring Membership" Class Saturday April 9th 9am-1pm!

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Jocie Luglio at:

jocie.jruuc@gmail.com.

Please RSVP by April 3rd. Lunch provided and childcare available upon request.



Stewardship Stirrings

Be sure to attend the kick-off for the Annual Budget Drive "Tending the Flame" Sunday, March 6.

Thank you corner: Greeters!

Every month the Stewardship Team likes to thank volunteers who help make our various programs run smoothly when they donate their time and talent. For March, we're highlighting our friendly **Greeters**.

Every Sunday morning the greeters prepare the space for worship and fellowship. This includes putting out hymnals, making coffee, preparing name tags, and more! The Reeb Greeters this congregation year include:

Andy Soth
Art Hackett
Charlie McNulty
Chris Glad
Cindy Rudd
Colleen O'Hara
James Phillips
Joan Kemble
Jocie Luglio
Kirsten Johnson
Laura Ragland
Mary Wagner
Peggy Haack
Sarah & Steve Elmore



From the Office

March means it is the anniversary of when I first began working here at JRUUC. It is my Eighth anniversary! Good heavens, I can hardly believe it has been eight years and will accept cards and gifts all month.

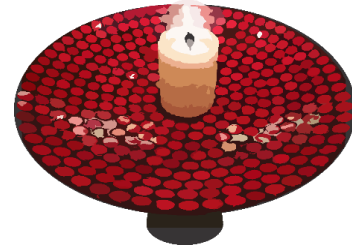
Our congregation is stronger than ever this year, with 107 members and a fantastic minister. I keep hearing from Unitarian Universalists who attend a different congregation that they respect and admire Rev. Karen and her social justice work. And it is a joy to work with all the staff and members here at JRUUC!

Of course, March also means that it is time to register for housing for General Assembly, June 22-26. UUA General Assembly will be in Columbus, Ohio, just an nine-hour drive from Madison (depending on traffic). I think every Unitarian Universalist ought to attend General Assembly (GA) at least once because the experience of being around 3,000-5,000 people sharing our religious faith cannot be felt anywhere else. It's exhilarating, empowering, and humbling. This year, the low-cost option for housing is stellar – five nights in an air-conditioned dorm at Ohio State University for under \$350, including free wireless, bedding and towels, and a refrigerator and microwave in your room.

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

Scholarships for GA are available, too, as long as you apply before March 31st!

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



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

Registration is open for our Regional Assembly! The cost is only \$175 for adults and \$150 for young adults (ages 18-35) through March 31! Registration includes four meals: breakfast, lunch, & dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Scholarships are available. The price will increase April 1st. You need to register for a hotel room separately.

https://www.midamericauua.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=89&Itemid=665



Beyond the Walls of Our Congregation

As Unitarian Universalists, we often find ourselves wishing we could live in a world that more closely reflects our values. We want more of what we share within the walls of our congregation to exist outside the walls. Many of us dedicate our lives to creating small pockets of community that reflect our values.

It can come as a surprise to many Unitarian Universalists that there is already an established network of such communities throughout the United States and Canada. It's our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. And they have formed an alliance to help spread the word, the Unitarian Universalist Alliance of Camp and Conference Centers (UUACCC).

Each center is a unique place, often located in a spectacular natural setting. Most operate year-round or close to it, offering retreats, conferences, and summer camp experiences that reflect our UU values. They offer similar experiences to the summer institutes and assemblies but because they are center based they are able to do so on a continuous basis throughout the year with a great many opportunities for learning and growing in community.

Adults and families are often surprised to learn what a wide range of opportunities for fellowship, self-discovery, and learning Camp and Conference Centers provide throughout the year. And all take place in natural settings of unparalleled beauty. For those of us with children, the centers that offer summer camp experiences for youth are especially important. It can be challenging for our children to find peers who share their values, and a place to belong where they can live those values. Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers are often a home away from home for young people.

In the words of a camper from Unirondack, a UU summer camp in the Western Adirondacks of New York State:

" You taught me to seek out the innate goodness in every human being. You taught me that there is no fully good person, and no consummation of evil...that everybody is a rainbow. You just have to pick which colors to see,...You taught me how to love. You taught me that love doesn't have to be between man and woman...that any two people can love each other. Love is holding hands, love is sitting together, reading together, singing together, holding each other up, holding each other back, and letting each other go. Goodbye Unirondack. I love you. And now I'm ready to go love some more."

Transformative UUnique experiences like this young person describes are an everyday occurrence at our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. There is something for everyone: youth, families of all kinds, and adults. Visit the UUACCC website to find links to UU experiences beyond the walls of our congregation.

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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.