

# Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin Volume 24, Number 5 — May 2016

#### **Connections**

I am so grateful for your overwhelming response to this year's budget drive! We've increased our pledge income by \$9,000, and everyone who received a financial commitment form has returned it. Big thanks to each and every one of you – and especially to the 15 "friends" who pledged this year, the six new pledgers, and the 41 folks who increased their pledges! When combined with the Chalice Lighter Grant we received, our generosity has made it possible to offer our Music Director a raise that brings her salary to the mid-range of the UUA guidelines and increases her hours to quarter time. And we will hire our new DRE at 15 hours a week. We've also committed some funds to new or increased initiatives, like increasing our social justice budget to include some outreach work and exploring the possibility of hiring a child care provider for our nursery on some Sunday mornings. We will also join the Soul Matters program, a UUA-sponsored group that provides materials and resources for theme-based ministry.

This month's theme is justice, and this justiceseeking congregation is never far from a conversation about this topic. I know that our individual levels of involvement in that work vary, because we're all part of this community for different reasons. My hope for this month is that those of you who are engaged in the work of justice will be nurtured through your connection to others who are also in it – and that those of you who are more engaged in the work of healing or the spiritual journey or community-building will be inspired by our congregation's compassionate and fierce response to injustice, as I am. Regardless of where we are in our lives, each of us brings some gift that fuels our collective work. You'll have the chance to hear reflections from three Reebers who have been participating in "The Shared Pulpit," and to participate in our annual Service Sunday. I'm looking forward to our conversations!

In faith and love, Karen

## **May 10 AM Sunday Services**

# **May Theme: Justice**

Justice is what love looks like in public.

-- Dr. Cornel West

Life is our only chance to both grow a soul and repair the world. We cannot really do one without the other. -- Rev. Richard Gilbert

# 5/1 "Justice: More than Equality?" Patricia Schneider

Come explore the challenge of opening our hearts beyond "fairness" to become instruments of justice in our lives. Heather Yonker and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.

## 5/8 "Mothers Near and Far" The Rev. Karen Ouinlan

Leila Pine provided the creative spark for this service, in which we'll explore the separation of families in the name of immigration enforcement, and compassionate alternatives.

## 5/15 "Better Together" The Rev. Karen Quinlan

We often think of faith communities as having two purposes: taking care of each other and working toward justice in the world. Today we'll explore the relationship between these functions. Are they mutually exclusive, or can they coexist?

## 5/22 "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, serving lunch at the Salvation Army, helping out at the OM Village, and others. We'll finish up with a potluck picnic in the park – bring a blanket to sit on and a dish to share!

## 5/29 "Non-violent Resistance to Injustice" Jean Skinner and Mary Wagner

The fight for justice and equality can take many forms. Memorial Day weekend, when we honor those who have fought for our country's freedoms, we will share reflections on the possibility of non-violent resistance to injustice.

**Check-in question:** What gifts do you have to offer to our collective work toward justice?



Minister's Office hours for May

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.

Rev. Karen will be out of the office for a ministers' seminar May 23-25, checking email mornings and evenings while away. She can also be reached by phone or text for emergencies during that time.

Rev. Karen will then be out of town for vacation May 26-30; please call Marla McFadden for pastoral care emergencies during that time. Marla will contact the minister on call. There will be no office hours May 25 or 26.



### **President's Column**

## **Covenant of Right Relations Review**

What follows is Doug Erickson's write-up of the results of the World Café he and I held in February to allow congregants to review and comment on the JRUUC Covenant of Right Relations. See the Covenant at http://www.jruuc.org/covenant-right-relations-0.

#### **World Café Summary**

Thirty people attended the Covenant of Right Relations World Café on February 21. No one attended the session offered the following Wednesday night.

During general comments at the February 21 session, there seemed to be broad agreement that the covenant is valuable and worth keeping. No one spoke in opposition to having one.

A number of people said they wished the covenant could be shortened or that a concise summary of a few sentences could be created that would be more memorable and easier to display and promote. This emerged as a prominent theme. Some felt that since much of the same language is used in each section, a briefer version would eliminate redundancies. One person said it would be nice if the core of the covenant, perhaps a boiled-down paragraph, could be printed each week in the order of service alongside our seven principles.

Other general comments and questions:

- What is the process when the covenant gets broken? How does the congregation recovenant?
- We could have a Committee of Right Relations that oversees the covenant's use, promotion and fidelity.
- Sections of it could be printed in the newsletter each month.
- The covenant's grammar needs to be improved.

The group then divided into six teams, each looking more closely at a section. One team brainstormed what a new "Member to Child" section might look like. (Specific thoughts from each team are included below in an addendum so that the feedback is not lost to history.)

**Recommendation for Next Steps on Covenant** 

Given the generally positive feedback and the fact that this year's congregational meeting already has a full agenda, we do not feel a sense of urgency in needing to bring revisions to the congregation this May. However, we fully endorse the development of a "Member to Child" section, perhaps in conjunction with a rethinking of the structure and length of the overall covenant. This could be a board goal for next year.

#### Addendum

#### **Section-by-Section Feedback**

- "Member to Self" Not a lot of complaints with this section; this section really resonated with the group; could tweak to combine redundancies.
- "Member to Member" Is too much expected of people in the way of participation?
- "Member to Leadership" Leadership is fluid, many do so invisibly; could be tightened considerably for redundancies; combine some of the bullet points.
- "Member to Minister" Section is too long; last bullet point could be subdivided into two bullets; reflects past difficulties with prior minister that may not be relevant in a covenant; there should be a positive way of saying "avoid triangulation" instead of framing it as trying to avoid a negative.
- "Member to Staff" A lot to like here; include staff in considering any alterations; consider removing last bullet item.
- "Member to Child" Any development of this section should include opportunities for children and youth to provide input (initiated by RE Committee); should stress being mindful of physical and emotional safety; acknowledgment that our actions should serve as an example; treat youth like members (include them and their contributions in everything); approach each child as an individual regardless of age, respecting unique stages of development.

Virginia Harrison, Board President

# Worship Leaders' Training 6 pm Wednesday, June 1

In our movement toward more quality and consistency in worship, Rev. Karen and the Worship Team encourage lay preachers to participate in training.

The next opportunity is a single session June 1<sup>st</sup>, **just in time for** summer worship leaders.

Rev. Karen will discuss worship theory and practice, offer pointers for creating and leading graceful and meaningful worship, and answer your questions.

Please RSVP to <u>revkaren@jruuc.org</u> by May 25 if you plan to attend.



# **Financial Update**

	March	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$11,403	144,715
Expenses	\$11,172	\$122,297

March's income and expenses were closely balanced. We are looking to be in good shape for the remainder of the fiscal year, perhaps even finishing the year with a modest surplus.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



# Goodbye from Sara Goodman

I have had such a wonderful time working with the members, youth, and children of this congregation from Fall 2014 until this Spring. With all the ups and downs in my personal life, it has been a blessing to me and my family to have all of you and this place as a constant. Thank you so much to those of you who came to my ordination! I'm so grateful to share that awesome event with you!

Shawn and I are very excited to be welcoming our son into our little family next month, (June 8<sup>th</sup> to be exact). Because of this, May is to be my last month working with you! We will be staying in Madison for the time being, as I will continue my work as part-time Consulting Minister with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley in Rockton Illinois.

Soon you will be getting to know and love a new Director of Religious Education, and I hope you welcome them with as much warmth and love as I have felt from you! The new person deserves to get a fresh start with the congregation, so although I will be in town, I will not be able to participate in the congregational life here at Reeb.

Know that I will carry the spirit of this place with me as I move on. The dedication to changing the world and the great care we share for our congregation's children and youth are both such important elements of what make you a wonderful spiritual home for so many people. Many blessings to you as we both move forward into exciting futures!

Sara Goodman, Director of Religious Education

# **What's New in Religious Education**

What an exciting time it is in Religious Education! Not only are we transitioning from Spring into thinking about our Summer program, we are transitioning from one Director of Religious Education to another – and with this transition comes a great opportunity to help shape the future of Children and Youth Religious Education in the congregation. Do you have a vision for a new way to teach our children and youth? Do you have a passion for education? Join the Children and Youth Religious Education Committee! If you are interested, please contact committee chair Stephanie Thurow at athenaprintz@gmail.com!

We are also excited to announce our summer curriculum! We will be doing a program designed to appeal to kids in all age groups, called **Wonder-full Summer** – a program that focuses on science and spirituality. Every lesson will offer opportunities to be outside and reflect on the wonder of the natural world. If you have an interest in science, the natural world, or in playing outside with kids, you may be the right fit for volunteering to teach for our summer program. So, if you are interested in being a lead teacher or an assistant for one of the ten exciting sessions, please email Sara Goodman at re@jruuc.org, or sign up in person on Sundays beginning May  $22^{nd}$ .



## The DRE Search Continues

We are happy to report that we have several well-qualified candidates for DRE and will conduct interviews this month. We hope to have a start date of June 1.

Mary Wagner, for the DRE Search Committee Sarah Elmore, Larry Orr, Virginia Harrison, Caroline Hardin, and Rev. Karen



# **Music Matters at JRUUC**

Let Justice Run clear and strong "Like a Mighty Stream" in this merry month of May. The JRUUC choir heeds the call to "Go Make a Difference!" Their flexibility, time commitment, and attitudes are reflected in each and every rehearsal. This month's services will be bolstered by "Freedom Songs," so "People Get Ready!"

This group has staying power! After many patient rehearsals they moved mountains with Ryan Amador's piece, "Define Me." This composer was kind enough to provide us lead sheets and permission to use his music free of charge, in exchange for a video of our presentation



JRUUC Choir members with Heather





Becca Everett

What a blessing it was to hear and experience the ethereal beauty of Becca Everett's voice hovering over the meditative harmony of the choir for "Bluebird" in April.

Later in May, don't miss original songs by Mitchell and Yonker for Mother's Day and a French song "L'Heure Exquise" (The Hour of Dreaming) from Becca.

Our Hymn of the Month for May will be #1027, "Cuando el Pobre"! (When the Poor Ones). Each week the congregation will learn a new verse, culminating in all verses at end of the month. Here is a youtube link to a cheesy karaoke version to help you. ©

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViYp\_8sWnH U. I invite you to get started!

Cuando el pobre nada tiene, y aún reparte, Cuando alguien pasa sed y aguanos da, Cuando el débil a su hermano fortalece, Va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar Va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving,

When the thirsty pass the cup, water to share, When the wounded offer others strength and healing,

We see God here, by our side, walking our way We see God here, by our side, walking our way



Youth Worship Service Participants

As many of you know, the youth service Rocked! I was so happy that vocalists Tess McGlenn and Lauryn Kluetman came to sing and support their moving sermon. And thank you Molly Mitchell and Becca Everett for accompanying service on April 24<sup>th</sup>!

Go Make a Difference! Heather Yonker, Music Director JRUUC



# **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.

**Saturday monthly meetings:** Socializing with coffee and cookies starts at 9:30 am; the meetings usually run 10 am -12 noon.

May 7<sup>th</sup> (at Friends' Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court)

June 4th (location TBA)

# Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 pm Urban League of Greater Madison 2222 S. Park St. #200

The Religious Leaders Caucus of MOSES is

hosting a panel discussion: Restorative Justice:
Accountability and Community: Engaging the
Community in a Non-punitive Approach to
Crime. The event will be moderated by Joan Duerst
(Chair, MOSES Religious Leaders Caucus). Panel
members will include: Jonathan Scharrer (UW-Law
School), Ron Johnson (Coordinator for Dane
County Community Restorative Court), Ishmael
Ozanne (Dane County District Attorney), and
Shelia Stubbs (Dane County Board of Supervisors).

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

# The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

We meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm May 9th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at <a href="mailto:bwhitney@chi-squared.org">bwhitney@chi-squared.org</a>.

## **Great News!**

The TimeBank Restorative Justice
Diversion program will take place here at
JRUUC beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>
In June, the program will change to
Wednesdays and continue indefinitely

ReThinking Youth Justice: Volunteers are needed for the TimeBank Restorative Justice Diversion program. The program gives youth between the ages of 12-16 a choice to resolve municipal citations outside the court.

The TimeBank is offering two trainings in May for adults interested in volunteering at one of the community youth court sites: Here at Reeb or at Fountain of Life.

Both training sessions will take place at the Social Justice Center Conference room at 1202 Willy St.

**Session 1: Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**, 10 am - 12 noon In this session we will do a mock trial and walk you through the ins and outs of a youth court session

Session 2: Saturday, May  $14^{th}$ , 10 am - 12 noon In this session you will learn and practice different facilitation techniques to address different situations that arise during a youth court session.

http://danecountytimebank.org/events-all For more information call 608-663-0400 or email youthcourt@danecountytimebank.org

# LakeFrontRow presents 19, the Tony Robinson Shooting

Wednesday, May 25 6:30 - 8:45 pm Madison Public Library Central, Meeting Rooms 301 & 302

LakeFrontRow is proud to present the Madison-area premiere of 19, The Tony Robinson Shooting: A Case of Deadly Bias, directed by Tim Poehlmann-Tynan. This film revisits events that led to the officer-involved shooting of Tony Robinson March 6, 2015. A panel discussion with director Tim Poehlmann-Tynan, Young, Gifted and Black cofounder Brandi Grayson, and Wisconsin State Representative Chris Taylor will follow the film. For more information, visit LakeFrontRow's event page at:

 $\frac{https://www.facebook.com/events/10143428286498}{13/}$ 

# Sustainable Saturday Night May 28<sup>th</sup> is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Potluck at 6pm. Program starts at 7pm.

The focus will be on Veterans for Peace efforts, featuring Guest speaker Mike Boehm, Director of a project through Madison Quakers in Vietnam. This is a project of peace and reconciliation creating relationships between the US and Vietnam.

## Service Sunday will be May 22

Activities will include: OM Village, Serving lunch at Salvation Army (for 4 youth+1 adult), working on JRUUC garden, and picking up trash in Demetral Park or our neighborhood.

# Local Food Social Justice! CAC Farmer's Market Collection!

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 dates are May 28th, August 27th, and November 5th. Sign up via Doodle poll:

http://doodle.com/poll/paeg23ehg4dpsbxe or contact Jocie Luglio to sign up: 442-8814 or jocie.jruuc@gmail.com

#### **Veterans for Peace Events**

Join the PJS in this volunteer opportunity: **Saturday, May 28 beginning at 9 am,** Veterans for Peace is looking for helping hands to set up the Memorial Mile at Olbrich Park, a jarring display on the cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please join us in the service of world peace by giving an hour or two to help. Contact Reeb members Joan Kemble 860-796-8746 or Larry Orr 608-516-1823.

A Peace Rally will be held at the Gates of Heaven in James Madison Park Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>:



# PEACE RALLY May 30, 2016

Hosted by Veterans for Peace-Clarence Kailin Chapter 25-Madison, Wisconsin



Guest Speaker

Ruth Conniff – Editor-in-Chief
The Progressive Magazine

"Standing Up For Peace on Memorial Day"

For more information, visit <a href="http://madisonvfp.org/">http://madisonvfp.org/</a>



# **Stewardship Stirrings**

# From Dreams to Reality: The Endowment Resolution

At our May 15 congregational meeting, we will consider an amendment to the bylaws that will establish an Endowment Fund that will continue to sustain JRUUC in the future, allowing us to donate beyond the annual budget. The Board of Trustees ("Board") will introduce an Endowment Resolution that will specify the management of the Fund. This will that the Fund must be managed by a professional group chosen by the Board (currently, the UU Common Endowment Fund, LLC.) This body makes investments consistent with our social and ethical and social values. No withdrawals from the Fund can be made until it exceeds the previous year's operating budget. After that, the Board can require a withdrawal of up to one-half of the dividends and interest earned by the Fund in the previous year. The Endowment Resolution also establishes an Endowment Committee that handles the mechanics of the Fund but cannot authorize withdrawals.

The Endowment Resolution has been publicized in three after-service forums. These have led to some tweaking of its language. The Fund's purpose and some frequently-asked questions are posted on our website at <a href="http://www.jruuc.org/endowment">http://www.jruuc.org/endowment</a>. The full text of the Resolution is available through a link at that site.

We hope that you will support the establishment of the Endowment Fund, and that you will consider supporting it after it has been authorized.

John Mathis, on behalf of the present Endowment Committee: Derek Peterson and Barb Whitney

#### Thank you corner: Snow Lottery!

Every month the Stewardship Team thanks volunteers who help make our various programs run smoothly by donating their time and talent. For May, we're highlighting those who played in the snow lottery this winter.

Although we're enjoying spring flowers now, back in the fall when folks signed up to shovel the JRUUC sidewalks for a week, they didn't know what to expect. Snow? Ice? Blowing flurries?

Thank you to the following individuals for their willingness to take a chance on using their muscles for the good of the community:

Megan Barry-Luglio Bev Buhr Ellie Connolly Tim Cordon **Grant Dobbe** Steve Elmore Chris Glad Virginia Harrison & Ellie Kelly Kearns Joan Kemble Janice & Martin Knapp-Cordes Charlie McNulty Molly Mitchell (for 2 Reeb Rave winners!) Timothy Neeld Elaine Pridgen Heike Saynisch



Many of you know that the Black Lives Matter banner over at First Unitarian Society (FUS) was cut down Friday morning, April 22 and stitched back together with needles and purple ribbon Sunday morning, April 24. Groups of UUs stood in solidarity with SSL and BLM banners and signs Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> during morning and afternoon rush hours. I went to the afternoon demonstration.

This cross-congregational social justice action would not have happened without our esteemed Madison UU ministers helping to coordinate our involvement. I joined the Facebook group called **Dane County UUs for Justice** and invite you to do the same by visiting:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1011304115614 864/

The entire time I've been a Unitarian Universalist in Madison, it has been difficult to inform other UUs of important events that involve us all. Most years, we do manage to cooperate for the Madison Pride Parade, coming up Sunday, August 21, 2016. This FB group will make it much easier!

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

# From The Rev. Meg Riley's Church of the Larger Fellowship Blog:

As some of you know, May the Fourth is Star Wars Day! (As in, "May the fourth be with you!")

This year, we've been excited to learn from the good folks at the <u>Harry Potter Alliance</u> and the <u>US</u> <u>Rebel Alliance</u> that they are using May the Fourth as a day to honor teachers. In a social media campaign called #TeachMeYouDid, they are asking people to share a story about our favorite teachers, so that we remind one another how important all kinds of teachers are in our lives. These may be formal teachers or mentors in accredited schools, or they may be teachers in the 'school of life' that never ends. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/clfuu">https://www.facebook.com/clfuu</a>



Roy Zimmerman: This Machine
7 pm Sunday, May 15

Drainia Unitarian Universalist Society

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society 2010 Whenona Drive

\$18 or pay what you can

"This Machine" is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's hilarious, rhyme-intensive original songs. The title is a reference to Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to be sure, but also an acknowledgement that songwriting does good work in the world. "Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression," says Roy, "because in calling out the world's absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the real possibility of change." For more information about Roy, visit http://www.royzimmerman.com/





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East Breeze is published monthly by James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your mailing address, contact the newsletter editor (Elizabeth Barrett).

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