

# EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 24, Number 8 — August 2016

## Connections

It feels so strange to try to connect with you in a newsletter column when I haven't seen most of you since late June! You have never been far from my mind or my heart, through this summer of violence and rage and resistance and connection.

I've been thinking a lot about how we might continue to ground this coming year, to center ourselves in the love that we know is possible. Things are so volatile. Some people say things are better than they ever have been, some say that things are the same as they ever were, and some say that things are far worse, and will get worse before they get better. Many say today's proliferation of bad news is only because we have more access to it.

However bad things are, I think that some of the good news our faith tradition offers is the continuing possibility for good in the world. Unitarianism and Universalism have been sources of hope for people seeking positive change for centuries. Our insistence on honoring many sources of wisdom, and on seeing the holy in the interconnected nature of everything and everyone while also seeing the value in each and every individual, empower us to build community across many kinds of difference.

So, even though we didn't plan on themes for the summer, I'm going to focus on the gifts and invitations of Unitarian Universalism this month. Each Sunday I'm in the pulpit in August, we'll explore an aspect of our faith tradition, and how it can support our work toward building the world we want. And after August, we'll begin using "Soul Matters" themes to continue to explore what it means to be Unitarian Universalists in this world (see the box later in the newsletter for the list of themes).

I'm looking forward to seeing you again soon!

In faith and love, Karen

## August 10 AM Sunday Services

### **August Worship: The Gifts and Invitations of Unitarian Universalism**

"The religion that says humankind is not divided—except by ignorance and prejudice and hate; the religion that proclaims an end to all exclusions—and declares brotherhood and sisterhood unbounded! The religion that knows that we shall never find the fullness of the wonder and the glory of life until we are ready to share it, that we shall never have hearts big enough for the love of God until we have made them big enough for the worldwide love of one another." -- A. Powell Davies, 20<sup>th</sup> century Unitarian minister

#### **8/7 "Where Is Our Holy Church?"**

##### **The Rev. Karen Quinlan**

Unitarian Universalism is perhaps best known for our radical welcome of people with all kinds of religious beliefs, and for our honoring of many sources of wisdom and religious traditions. But does our faith tradition have a theology of its own?

#### **8/14 "Be Ours A Religion"**

##### **The Rev. Karen Quinlan**

In the history of Unitarianism, the core values have been freedom, reason, and tolerance; in Universalism, it has been love. Today we'll learn about some times in our collective history in which those values have been lifted up—and some in which they have been ignored. What can we learn from our history?

#### **8/21 "Answering the Call of Love"**

##### **The Rev. Karen Quinlan**

The "bookend principles" of Unitarian Universalism are our unwavering belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and our faithful respect for the

interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. What does it mean to live in that intersection?

**8/28 “UU Parenting”  
Virginia Harrison and Charlie McNulty**



### Minister’s Office hours for August

#### **Minister’s Office hours for August:**

Wednesdays, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm, at JRUUC –  
please let me know if you’re coming.

Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at Café Zoma on  
Atwood Ave. – stop by for a chat!

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment

**There will be no office hours the week of August 1 or August 22.**

#### **Minister’s Availability in August:**

**August 1-4:** Rev. Karen will be in Chicago for a leadership training. She can be reached by email, phone, or text during this time.

**August 22-28:** Rev. Karen will be in St. Paul for staff leadership training and the Mosaic Makers Conference. She can be reached by email, phone, or text during this time.

### **Congregational Conversation on Religious Exploration Sunday, August 14**

Please stay after the service on August 14 to continue the conversation about our adult religious exploration program that we started in the spring. Rev. Karen will offer a draft statement of purpose for the program and share some curricula she’d like feedback on.

### **Covenant Groups for 2016-2017**

This year’s Covenant Groups will form in September! We hope to form several year-long groups, for which there will be sign-up sheets on the Religious Education table in the Narthex starting on August 7. There will also be two opportunities to form short-term groups that will follow the Membership Committee’s “Exploring Membership” classes. These groups will be for people new to JRUUC, and others who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and their connection to it. See Rev. Karen for more information.



### **“Soul Matters” Themes for 2016-2017**

#### **“What does it mean to be a community of...”**

September: Covenant

October: Awe

November: Story

December: Presence

January: Prophecy

February: Faith

March: Risk

April: Transformation

May: Embodiment

June: Zest

**Please talk with Rev. Karen about  
topics you’d like to explore in worship,  
Covenant Groups, and other ways,  
within these themes.**

## Need Help?

### Call the JRUUC Caring Tree!

The Caring Tree is one of the ways we Take care of each other. Our pastoral and parish care system is here for all of us, it's made up of all of us, and it's managed by Marla McFadden, Cindy Rudd, and Rev. Karen.

Many Reebers have signed up to provide services you might find yourself needing:

- We make and deliver meals in times of need
- We provide rides when you're stuck
- We run errands when you can't do them yourself
- We send cards to acknowledge times of celebration and condolence
- We visit you at home or in the hospital, and provide respite care
- We provide emergency child care
- We provide mental health support and education

#### See here for more details:

<http://www.jruuc.org/caring-tree>

#### Please call us when you need help!

Marla: 608-279-0785

Cindy: 608-469-5269

Rev. Karen: 219-221-3371

by way of introduction to the reading. The author asks the reader to name some of the most important work that their congregation performs. He then asks how long it has been since the board studied that work! This is from the book Governance and Ministry, written by the Rev. Dan Hotchkiss, a UU minister and consultant.

For instance, our congregation does work with the Men's Shelter, with MOSES, with Sustainable Saturday Nights, among many others. We also provide beautiful worship services and spaces for both healing and for awakening for our members and visitors. However, as the author anticipates, we spend very little time in our board meetings studying either our Social Justice work or our internal-facing community building.

Which brings me back to the TimeBank. Their work with restorative justice dovetails and intersects perfectly with both our mission and with the work that our congregation is already carrying out. I'm hopeful that we can work with TimeBank to share our gifts as a congregation and to better understand the needs of our community.

I'm even more hopeful that our relationship with TimeBank is just the beginning of this type of partnership building for the board. I'd like this to be a year filled with exploring the work that we're already so excellent at as a congregation and searching for ways to build interconnections and partnerships within our community and throughout all of our larger communities so that we can most fully embody the Mission of JRUUC.

Charlie McNulty, Board President

## President's Column

Hello Reebers! Two things happened at the July board meeting, which may seem unrelated. First, as you can read on page 5 of this newsletter, the board has formally agreed to become an organizational member of the Dane County TimeBank.

The second thing is that I assigned some reading homework to the Board of Trustees. The chapter I assigned is about how congregations and boards organize themselves with respect to committees and teams. However, the reading contains a rather provocative exercise which I shared with the board

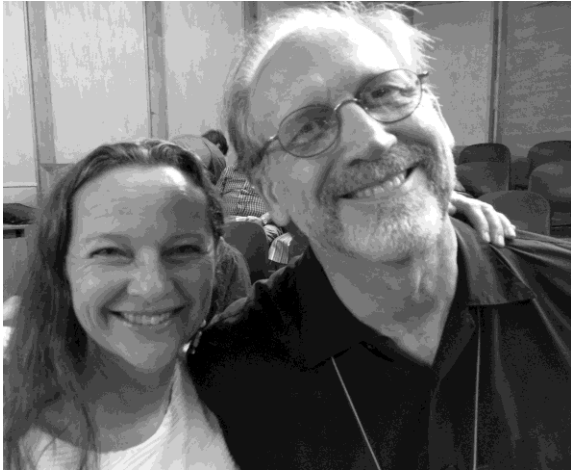


## Financial Update

	June	July 2015- June 2016
<b>Income</b>	\$12,027	\$184,291
<b>Expenses</b>	\$16,964	\$165,690

We ended the year \$18,000 in the black. Having this emergency reserve means that we do not need to renew our line of credit.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

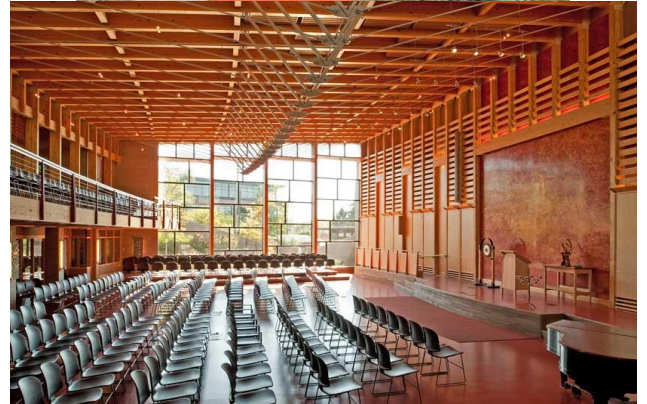


## Music Matters

WOW! July was packed with exploring new ideas in music, conducting, shared ministry and worship design for the coming season. Thanks to the wonderful “UUMN-BEING” pictured above, Dan Broner, Music Director at First Unitarian Society, I was able to attend the UU Musician’s Network National Conference, held here in Madison this year. Thanks also, JRUUC, for the professional development day opportunity. I would love to share content with any of you that are interested in Jan Gartner’s ideas on collective accountability, complementary values and collaborative ministry.

Conference headliner Marcia McFee motivated us to make like “metaforagers.” Say that three times fast! Her dynamic energy and practical application creating sensory rich worship experiences was inspiring. Her design concept this year, “Think Like a Filmmaker,” resonated loudly with my own previous experience in theater, dance, and film. She was speaking my language and nudging my three “V’s”, the verbal, visual, and visceral aspects of worship. To see how this played out, watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxJ2JTkcFZ4>

Perhaps the most powerful aspect of the conference experience was the impeccable grace, presence and artistry demonstrated under the leadership of Dr. Adam Jonathan Con. This guest conductor of the conference choir is also a music educator who applies his study of Tai Chi Chuan to his work. His ability to ground and connect an entire room full of musicians was further anchored in the textures and innate organic beauty of the architecture of the First Unitarian Society Atrium Auditorium.



The 2016 UUMN Conference site

**I am grateful to the people that have been providing diversity and variety to the music offerings here at James Reeb over the summer.** There have been a few inquiries and potential additions to the fall choir. Would you like to be on that list? We will continue meeting on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm. Watch for notification regarding our first rehearsal. Do you have another skill in the arts or multi-media that you would like to apply to a special service? Contact me with your interest and ideas for collaborating in creating “sensory rich, symbolically provocative, spiritually deep worship experiences.”

August means my first anniversary with James Reeb and with the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network. What a glorious abundance of talent and good souls I have been exposed to this year!

Heather Yonker, music director JRUUC,  
music@jruc.org

“Be Like Water.....it can move through anything,” Adam Con



## 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.

As of this writing, Wisconsin **inmates are refusing food** as a way to demand the end of the torturous practice of long term solitary confinement. Stay in the loop via:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mosesmadison/>

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

**The next meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup>** at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive.

**Saturday, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>**, from 1 to 4 pm, all are invited to a **Picnic / Potluck** at the Red Riley Barn (8283 N Riley Rd.) in Verona. There will be live testimonials, music and a chance to enjoy one another's company. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish.

If you have questions (or want to get a ROC Wisconsin Prayer Card) contact Carin B. at [cmbringe@gmail.com](mailto: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 August 8. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at [bwhitney@chi-squared.org](mailto:bwhitney@chi-squared.org).

## **Sustainable Saturday Night** **August 27 is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday** **Potluck at 6pm. Program starts at 7pm.**

For more information, contact  
Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633.



### **JRUUC + Dane County TimeBank = Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

James Reeb UU Congregation currently hosts Youth Court restorative justice sessions. This donation of meeting space to the community earns JRUUC hours that are eligible for TimeBank services.

JRUUC is new to the TimeBank program and the board is looking for a member(s) who may have prior experience with TimeBank or who are simply interested in learning more and helping us to coordinate our efforts with TimeBank — recording hours earned and requesting services when they can offer us assistance.

You can learn more about TimeBank at <http://danecountytimebank.org/>

If you are interested in the JRUUC–DCTB connection or have questions, please contact Colleen O'Hara at [ohara1945@gmail.com](mailto:ohara1945@gmail.com) or 608-332-4478.

## Membership Committee News



### **August 10, Wednesday at 7:05 pm**

If you don't have a ticket yet, go to <http://madison-mallards.northwoodsleague.tv/Buy/Tickets>  
In the promotions box, enter Promo Code: JamesReeb. Follow the steps to purchase tickets. Online orders include a \$1.50/ticket fee. Questions or concerns? Contact Sarah Elmore 608-257-2712.



**September 17, Saturday**  
**JRUUC Campout**  
**Lake Farm County Park**

If you've never attended before, you're welcome to set up camp in our Group Camp Site or just come for the fun of a hike in the woods or to breathe in some fresh autumn air before enjoying a roaring campfire complete with good food, songs and stories. The s'mores are always delicious! In the morning, we have breakfast followed by an informal worship before we pack up.



**From the Office**

Our 2015-16 congregation year has ended on a high note—with an operating budget surplus! This is good news for us all because we have a healthy emergency reserve fund again.

As many of you know, Art Hackett & Sharon Bogert are in the process of moving to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I've known Art and Sharon since 1992 at First Unitarian Society. I was among a large group helping to clean out 2146 E. Johnson after our purchase. Young Jim Hackett threw a nail-studded timber into the dumpster as if he were throwing a javelin, which prompted Sharon to say, "Let's try to do this without taking a trip to the emergency room." I can imagine her saying this to the grandchildren soon!

The whole eight years I've worked here, Art has been a constant presence—coming in to sign checks, empty pails of water, climb on the roof, dispose of dead mice, paint the exterior, and a myriad of other large and small jobs. It will be a big adjustment for me and everyone not to see his smiling face every week.

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



**Stewardship Stirrings**

**Thank you corner: The Worship Associates!**

Every month the Stewardship Team thanks volunteers who help make our various programs run smoothly when they donate their time and talent. This month, we are highlighting the Worship Associates!

Led by Pat Schneider and Rachel Avery, the Worship Associates help put all the pieces together for creating a smooth-running and spiritual Sunday service, including ensuring the microphones have charged batteries, recording the service, assisting the minister, and leading parts or sometimes all of the service. The members are:

Rachel Avery  
Carin Bringelson  
Sarah Cook  
Doug Erickson  
Chris Glad  
Sarah Hallas  
Virginia Harrison  
Mark Lydon  
Craig McComb  
Molly Mitchell  
Amy Owen  
Pat Schneider  
Sandy Person  
Leila Pine  
Kim Reain  
Mary Wagner  
Barbara Whitney



## ***Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War***

**A new film directed by Ken Burns  
and Artemis Joukowsky  
PBS Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War* is an account of a daring rescue mission that occurred on the precipice of World War II. It tells the previously untold story of the Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp, Unitarians from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their congregation and boldly committed to a life-threatening mission in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped to save scores of imperiled Jews and refugees fleeing Nazi occupation across Europe.

At a time when most Americans were turning a blind eye to the growing social injustice and totalitarian threat in Europe, the American Unitarian Association—alerted to the dire situation by their fellow congregation in Prague—was committed to saving as many people as possible. With narration taken completely from the couple's journals, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War* combines the intrigue of a spy novel with an intimate look into the lives of a couple who were willing to put the well-being of strangers before that of themselves and their family.

The Sophia Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School (Unitarian Universalist) has developed a curriculum, [\*\*\*We Who Defy Hate: An Interfaith Preparation for Social Justice Action\*\*\*](#), to help communities engage and bring societal change. It is created in the context of our film, *Defying the Nazis*.

We might show this film at JRUUC September 20<sup>th</sup>, with a discussion after. Stay tuned for more details.



**James Reeb Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation  
2146 E. Johnson Street  
Madison WI 53704  
[www.jruuc.org](http://www.jruuc.org)**

**Rev. Karen Quinlan**, Minister  
(219) 221-3371 [revkaren@jruuc.org](mailto:revkaren@jruuc.org)  
**Elizabeth Barrett**, Office Administrator  
(608) 242-8887 [office@jruuc.org](mailto:office@jruuc.org)  
**Alice Mandt**, Director of Religious  
Education [re@jruuc.org](mailto:re@jruuc.org) (as of June 1)  
**Heather Yonker**, Director of Music  
[music@jruuc.org](mailto:music@jruuc.org)  
**Virginia Harrison**, President  
(608) 669-2822  
[harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com](mailto:harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com)  
**Charlie McNulty**, President-elect  
(608) 334-6060 [charlie@kznf.com](mailto:charlie@kznf.com)  
**Barbara Whitney**, Secretary  
(608) 221-3938  
[bwhitney@chi-squared.org](mailto:bwhitney@chi-squared.org)  
**Jeanne Lydon**, Treasurer  
(608) 957-9320  
[jeanne\\_lydon@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com)

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Newsletter submissions may be emailed to [office@jruuc.org](mailto: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.