

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 11 — November 2016

Connections

This month's theme of story is ingeniously planned. In November, this vitriolic and divisive election season ends with our nation's decision on what values they support – and the disenfranchisement of some of our neighbors is inevitable. It's the month we're taught to give thanks for all we have, while studiously ignoring what our forebears had to do to other people to get us there. It's the month in which we mark Transgender Day of Remembrance, the day we lift up our trans and gender non-conforming siblings whose lives ended in violence. And it's the month in which some of us mark All Saints' Day or Dia de los Muertos, offering gratitude to the ancestors.

There are so many stories here, just begging for our attention.

As if that weren't enough, there are all the stories we each hold as part of our life's journeys. Stories of joy and fulfillment and deep connection. Stories of grief and loss and separation. Stories of fear and anxiety and jealousy. Stories of love and hope and transformation. These stories fill our lives – these stories are our lives – and when we're able to share them with each other, that holy connection we humans have access to is made.

I think this is some of what Thomas King means when he writes that stories are all we are.

And so, let us share our stories with each other in the building of our community. And when we can be open to them, let us listen to the stories of others and build wider community. I believe this is what we humans are here to do.

In faith and love,
Karen

November 10 AM Sunday Services

November Theme: Story

“The truth about stories is that that is all we are.”
-- Thomas King

11/6 “Moral Declaration Weekend”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Today's Moral Revival

(www.moralrevival.org) calls people of faith to listen to the stories of the oppressed, and declare that “Our country is in need of a moral revolution of values to champion the sacred values of love, justice, and mercy in the public square.” James Reeb did this work, and he was killed for it in Selma, Alabama in 1965. How will we answer the call of love, justice, and mercy?

11/13 “Building a New Way”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

On this Sunday after one of the wildest election cycles ever, we gather in hope and in love to reflect on what happens next. What are we called to do now, in the face of the racist and misogynist language that have so explicitly entered the public sphere? What stories will hold us and move us forward?

11/20 “This I Believe”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Richard Johnson and Amanda Werhane

This morning, come and hear Reebers share something of their faith journeys.

11/27 “Where Two or Three Gather”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Thanksgiving is a time many of us gather with loved ones. And today is the first day of the Christian season of Advent. And so, this weekend holds an intersection of gratitude and waiting. (continued)

This morning, we'll reflect on some of the stories that arise when we gather with these intentions.

Check-in question: What current religious, cultural, or political “story” are you wrestling with?



Minister's Office hours for November

Minister's Office hours for November:

Wednesdays, 12 noon – 2 pm, at JRUC – 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

Please note that Rev. Karen will be taking Thanksgiving week off, and will not hold office hours on November 23 and 24.

As always, please set up an appointment if you'd like to meet with her outside of office hours, and please call or text if you have a pastoral emergency.

Adult Religious Exploration News

Save the date for the next Window in Black History!

Saturday, December 3rd 9 - 11 am

Brandi Grayson of the Young, Gifted, and Black Coalition and Karen Reese of Justified Anger started us off in October with an eye-opening conversation about Black culture before the slave era. The next session with Brandi and Karen will focus on the slave era.

Covenant Groups

After a delayed start, we expect this year's Covenant Groups to begin meeting this month. Please contact Rev. Karen with your questions.

November 8th

Watch the Election Returns with Your Beloved Community

Joy shared is doubled and sorrow shared is halved. Come to Reeb to watch election returns in a safe and supportive environment. We'll start streaming results at 7 pm in the Multipurpose room.

Please bring snacks to share. Contact Janice Knapp-Cordes with questions:

janice.knappcordes@gmail.com

Special Service

7 pm Wednesday November 9th Post-Election Sharing Circle

Come gather with our Reeb community to share our hopes and fears the day after the most divisive election many of us can remember.

Facilitated by Rev. Karen, we'll offer each other love and support in this time that will continue to be contentious, regardless of who was elected as our President.



Financial Update

	September 2016	Year to Date
Income	\$11,306	\$45,673
Expenses	\$16,020	\$43,890

Although we had a negative cash flow this month, we are still running in the black for the fiscal year. Keep those pledges coming, and thanks!

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Black Lives Matter and other Justice Work happening at JRUUC

Besides adult RE offerings, there are several ways that Reebers are learning how to participate in the movement for collective liberation. Please contact Rev. Karen with any questions you have about what is happening in these areas, or if you think you'd like to explore or join the work being done.

- **Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group (PJS).** This is a group of Reebers that discusses and takes action on a wide range of justice issues in Madison. The group meets in person on the second Monday of every month, and also maintains an email group that you can join to stay informed of the work being considered and done. Contact Kelly Kearns if you're interested in being part of the PJS.
- **Anti-Racism Core Team.** This is a group of Reebers that has been meeting with Rev. Karen since February to work on discerning directions for our congregation's racial justice work. Our goals so far are two-fold: to discern what educational opportunities might be offered at Reeb, and to learn to use an anti-racism lens to analyze our congregational structure.
- **Mosaic Makers.** This is a brand-new Reeb team that is forming in response to our participation in a Regional conference on multicultural congregations in August. It's made up of people from our Board of Trustees and our PJS and Membership, Stewardship, Worship, and Anti-Racism Core Teams, along with Rev. Karen and program staff. Our goal is to discern and articulate our congregational culture, and learn how we might shift toward being more inclusive of a wider range of people.

- **Dane County UUs for Justice.** This is an attempt at coalition-building by the three Madison UU congregations, by sharing information on justice events hosted by each and collaborating on joint events. There are two layers to this effort: a small planning team that meets in person every three months and via email list in between, and a Facebook group that is open to everyone in the three congregations to join and post events of interest. Please let Rev. Karen know if you're interested in joining the Facebook group.

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

President's Column

For many years the JRUUC board has been making steady progress towards constructing our five pillars of financial management. The five pillars are an Operating Budget, an Operating Reserve, a Major Maintenance and Replacement Fund, the Endowment Fund and an Emergency/ Opportunity Fund.

At our September board meeting, with the creation and allocation of funds to an Operating Reserve, we've officially put into place our 5th pillar! At risk of over-extending the metaphor, our pillars are perhaps a bit uneven and covered in scaffolding, but they do exist. This is a really monumental achievement towards not just making sure that we can keep the lights on, but towards truly fulfilling the mission and values of Reeb and of Unitarian Universalism. Our Operating Reserve means that we can be sure that we will not fail to live up to our commitments.

Funding our Maintenance Fund means when the furnace goes out, we won't need to sacrifice any of our other programs. I want to acknowledge all of the people that have helped us get to this point. Kim Reain and Virginia Harrison transformed our operating budget process.

Our Endowment team worked really hard to make sure that people could invest in the future of Reeb with confidence. Our stewardship team lead our Maintenance Fund efforts including drafting the policy that will act as the framework. Work remains, including gradually increasing our budgetary commitment to the Maintenance and Emergency funds, but I feel better than I ever have in my four years on the Board of Trustees about the state of our financial future!

Charlie McNulty, Board President



Reeb Rave "Under the Sea"

Our Annual Fundraiser

Is just around the corner

November 12th 5-8 pm

Dinner begins at 5:30 pm

suggested donation of \$10 per person,

\$25 for a family of three or more

No one turned away.

Come in costume to win fabulous prizes!

Create an under-the-sea-costume using your imagination, or ideas from movies, books, mythology, etc.

Your donations are the key to making This year's event an amazing success.

Use your imagination, the sky's the limit.

See all the details at:

<http://www.jruuc.org/>

including the online catalog and last year's catalog.

You may submit your donation information online!

The deadline is November 7th

We also still need some volunteers to help with planning! Please contact Tom at tlmclin@wisc.edu or 608 206-1699.



Help with Reeb Rave Setup

We need volunteers to help set-up

Friday, Nov. 11th 5-8 pm and

Saturday Nov. 12th, 10 am – 2 pm

Please contact Tom at

tlmclin@wisc.edu

or 608 206-1699.



MANY HANDS WORK DAY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

9 AM TO NOON

**JOIN US IN HANDLING SOME
MAINTENANCE & REPAIR PROJECTS
FOR OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS.
WE NEED TO GET SOME PAINTING
AND OTHER TASKS DONE
BEFORE IT GETS COLD, SO
WE WILL NEED LOTS OF HELP!
QUESTIONS? CONTACT KELLY AT
KEARNS@UWALUMNI.COM**

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

We meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm November 8th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night (SSN)

November 26th is the 4th Saturday

Potluck at 6pm; Program begins at 7pm.

We now have five organizations co-sponsoring SSN. Join us to discuss ideas for future programs. SSN is always a family-friendly event. For more information, contact Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633.

Share the Plate Totals

September through October

Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice \$150.50

Project Bubbles \$182

RePower Madison \$170.25

MOSES Yearbook \$255.70

GSAFE is in progress!

Justice at JRUC



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. Learn about Old Law Prisoners, Solitary Confinement, Prison Prevention, Post-release Issues, and more at the **upcoming monthly meetings the first Saturday of each month:**

November 5th at Madison Christian Community
7118 Old Sauk Road

December 3rd at First Unitarian Society
900 University Bay Drive

Socializing with coffee and cookies begins at 9:30 am; meetings run 10 am to Noon.

If you have questions about MOSES contact Carin Bringelson at cmbringel@gmail.com or see <http://mosesmadison.org>.



From the Office

Story is our theme for this month. I have been thinking of the miracle story in my own family – my mother, diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1960 and given a 10% chance of survival, is still alive and well today. After a skilled surgeon removed her acoustic neuroma, she re-learned how to walk and talk and had three more children, including me. My mom eventually learned to drive and had a career as an assistant manager for an apartment complex, all while keeping her sense of humor. What is your family's miracle story?

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



Music Matters

How do you frame it? Your story that is. Is it well crafted? Outdated? Finished? Or To be continued? Comedy, high drama, suspense?

Every day we go out and make stories, born of love, hate, imagination, experience, dreams, fears, curiosity and nostalgia. They comfort us, they entertain us, they teach us, they move us, they explain us. We are stories.

Whether as few words as six, like Hemingway's famous short, or as many as 1.3 million, touted by Marcel Proust, there is perhaps nothing more expressive of the individual. Stories can be told with words or with the lack of words, with image, with body language, with music, with sighs, sounds, and smells. I believe we depend upon them for order and a sense of grounding but, beyond the story itself, perhaps more important is the telling, the sharing.

Once, during a long period of grief, my friend who lived around the corner invited me to her home and read a new chapter from *Momo* to me every evening, Great story, great storyteller, great memory, great friend. I will always remember and value that time we spent together.

I used to teach a lesson to young adult college students in a media class, "What is the value of books?" After brainstorming a hundred words about the benefits and things that we all have learned from books and reading, ultimately I would help lead them to the word that I felt was perhaps the most important: **Focus**.

When one learns how to focus deeply, that is something to behold.

Tell your stories this month "Make Them Hear You" and "Listen" to stories, because they "Give Us Hope." The choir is looking forward to singing with the Meeting House Chorus of First Unitarian

Society at First Unitarian November 6th. November 13th, the Meeting House Chorus, directed by Dan Broner, will come to James Reeb to sing with us. Do "Everything Possible" to be here.

Here are some stories that we went out and made this summer while attending Mosaic Makers together.



Heather Yonker, Music Director



Stewardship Stirrings

Thank you corner: The JRUUC Choir

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 JRUUC Choir.

The Choir is led by our creative and talented Music Director, Heather Yonker. Bringing the revelation and magic of music to the congregation, the Choir rehearses each week and presents music as a whole choir approximately twice a month. On other Sundays, small groups present musical selections. Choir members also learn the hymns each week in preparation to assist the congregation in singing on Sundays.

This year in November, the choir will be participating in a "choir exchange" with First Society's Meeting House Chorus. The choir also presents the annual Solstice ritual event in December. Choir members have written a covenant with each other and are committed to using it to deepen relationships within and around the choir.

Choir members are:

Jane Aldrich
Janice Knapp-Cordes
Alice Shuman-Johnson
Amanda Werhane
Becca Everett
Marla McFadden
Jean Skinner
Chris Glad
Rachel Avery
Heike Saynisch
Molly Mitchell
Sarah Hallas
Kirsten Johnson
Rand Hill
Craig McComb
Liam Dagnon
Tom Kemble

holiday **Craft Fair**

Holiday Bake & Craft Sale Sunday, December 18th

When you do your holiday baking,
Please put aside a portion to donate.

If you are a knitter or a crafter,
consider making a few extra small gifts
that others may want to purchase.

The December *East Breeze* Newsletter
will have more information.

Questions? Contact Cindy Rudd
at 608-469-5269.



Winter WomanSpirit

February 3-5, 2017

JUST WOMEN: JUST WORLD

with Sister Simone Campbell

WWS2017 will be held at Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb
158 N 4th St, DeKalb, IL 60115

Plan to Join us!

<http://www.womenandreligion.org/>



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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 deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month at 5 pm. Please put the word "newsletter" into the subject line of your message and limit articles to 200 words. Please be careful not to include sensitive information.



Some say that Gratitude is the main theology of present day Unitarian Universalism. Back in 2006, the Rev. Galen Guengerich, senior minister of All Souls, in New York City gave a sermon on this topic. Parts of his sermon were re-printed in *UU World* in 2007. You can read it by going here:

<http://www.uuworld.org/articles/a-theology-gratitude>

Families often go around the dinner table at Thanksgiving to say one thing they're grateful for...here is your invitation to do that this year. How would it feel to do this every night? Maybe some of you already do this.



Thank you for being!
Elizabeth Barrett