

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 25, Number 1 — January, 2017

Connections

The longest night has passed, and the sun has returned. Now that the darkest days of winter are behind us, we turn once again toward the light. I am so looking forward to turning toward the light.

And – I wish it were that simple. But this January brings a historic event – the inauguration of a President who has no political experience, whose leadership so far has encouraged a sharp increase in hateful speech and harmful actions in the public sphere, and who will, I believe, dramatically worsen the plight of our vulnerable and our oppressed people. I fear that the darkest days are yet to come, and I need more than the hope and promise of the season this year. I need a vision of what we, the people, will do to nurture and encourage the best in ourselves and each other. I need a vision of what we, the people, will do to resist rabid discrimination and harmful rhetoric, actions, and legislation.

This is a time in which prophetic words and deeds are needed. **Prophecy isn't so much about seeing the future, as it is about seeing things as they are and envisioning possibilities for making them better.**

So here's my prophecy. I see that people, by and large, are still mostly good. I see that most of us who voted for our incoming President did not actually vote for hate and oppression, but for a way out of the hard times they're in. I see, already, many people who are willing to take risks to ensure the safety of their neighbors. I see willingness to look beyond differences that may once have kept us apart, to fight together for the safety of our most vulnerable. I see new energy around creating coalitions. I see people finding a sense of groundedness in their faith and their values, and reaching out from there.

Let us envision the possibilities together. We were born for this time, and we shall overcome.

In faith and love, Karen



January 10 AM Sunday Services

January Theme: Prophecy

“The biblical prophet didn't so much predict the future as to speak for God in a world that has gone askew by forgetting about God [and goodness]... And so, the prophets spoke both about God and for God, reminding their listeners that they've forgotten something essential.” -- Peter Santucci

1/1

“A Big Sigh”

Mary Wagner and Barb Whitney

Do you need a contemplative start to your year? Come join us for some quiet meditation and music.

1/8

“Burning Bowl”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

It's time to mark the beginning of our next circle around the sun together! During today's multigenerational service, we'll create intentions for the New Year and seal them in a fire communion.

1/15

“Resistance and Resilience”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an exemplar of the resistance and resilience that People of Color and Native peoples in the US have had to create for themselves over many generations. Today we'll explore the prophetic vision of the resistance movements of the Civil Rights Era and Standing Rock, and the radical love that has grounded them.

1/22 “Mission: Dream It, Be It!”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

As we prepare ourselves for the pastoral and prophetic work of bringing love and justice to our polarized and chaotic world, we ground ourselves in the strength and courage we find in our faith community. Our mission statement is how we tell the world who we are – and so, the beginning of this national administration feels like a very good time to start a congregation-wide conversation about our mission statement.

Kickoff – how are we going to be in this world (post-inauguration) layered over how we articulate who we are.

1/29 “Prophets, Pastors, and Priests”

Sarah Cook

Challenge, nurture, or preserve the institution? While some of us are more inclined to one role than another, we support each other best when we see the value in all three.

Check-in question: What goodness do you see in the world, of which you can remind others?



Minister’s Office hours for January

Wednesdays, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm, at JRUUC

Please let me know if you’re coming.

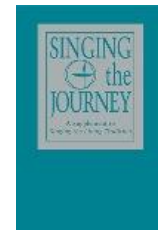
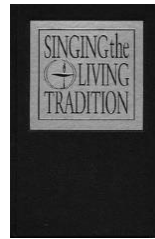
Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at Café Zoma on

Atwood Ave. – stop by for a chat!

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment

Please note that Rev. Karen will be off during the week between Christmas and New Year’s, returning to the office Tuesday, January 3. She will also be out of the office on study leave from January 26 through January 30, with no office hours January 26.

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.



**Hymnal Fundraiser
Extended!**

It’s time to order more hymnals!

Please consider making a gift to JRUUC in the form of a new copy of one of our hymnals – or, even better, give a set including *Singing the Living Tradition* (the gray hymnal) and *Singing the Journey* (the teal supplement). Recognition plates will be put inside the front cover of every hymnal you purchase. Each copy of *Singing the Living Tradition* is \$22.40; each copy of *Singing the Journey* is \$14.40. Look for a donation form in your order of service on Sundays, or print a donation form.

Thanks to those who have already donated, we are halfway to our goal of 40 sets of hymnals and have reached our goal of 12 copies of *Las Voces del Camino*! Please bring or send your donations to Elizabeth in the JRUUC office.



**Soup & Grilled Cheese Fundraiser!
Sunday, January 8**

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

Interested in providing soup?

Please contact Cindy Rudd at 608-469-5269 or clrudd47@gmail.com.

Suggested donation \$6/adult, \$3 for kids.

Coordinated by the FUNd Raising Committee



Mission: Dream It, Be It!

**Who are we? What do we do?
Who do we serve?**

**These are the questions that a
congregation's mission statement
answers.**

Our Mission Statement, which was beautifully crafted by our founders over 20 years ago, says:

We:

*Embody a broad spectrum of cultures,
lifestyles and creeds;
Honor the Earth and the seasons of nature;
Value truth and reason over doctrine and
dogma;
Encourage social action in the name of
liberty and justice;
Celebrate our community and the journey of
life; and
Unite in our quest for personal and spiritual
growth.*

While this is an excellent broad description of how JRUUC understands Unitarian Universalism, your Board of Trustees believes that now is the time for us to reflect on what our congregation offers to our members, friends, and community.

While we are still rooted in the ideals of our founders, we have grown and changed, as all humans and organizations do. We owe it to ourselves, and to our neighbors who haven't found our life-sustaining community yet, to revisit and explore our mission, and how we say who we are.

The Board invites you to take part in this important and exciting conversation.

Here's how we see this conversation happening:

- **Sunday, January 22** – conversation kickoff in worship
- **Saturday, February 4** – all-congregational workshop (a Refining Team will be chosen to incorporate all input from this workshop into a first draft)
- **March** – newsletter contains first draft of our new mission statement, and small groups attend cottage meetings to make edits
- **April** – second draft released, and feedback is gathered in an all-congregation meeting
- **May** – more feedback is gathered at a second all-congregation meeting, and a final statement is generated for congregational vote at our annual meeting

This is a great time to talk about who we are as a faith community. And we need **you** to be part of it! Please save the dates for the kickoff service and workshop, and bring your ideas about how to articulate our congregation's mission.

Sanctuary Informational Meetings January 9 and 10, 2017

Sanctuary: what is it, who might need it, and who might provide it? We recognize that people in our community are facing an increased threat of families being torn apart by deportations and of harm from hate crimes. As a faith community, we join our neighbors in seeking ways to respond. **The Sanctuary Movement** lifts up stories of those at risk and can involve providing safe refuge - or support for communities that can provide refuge. Come to this free, multi-faith informational meeting - offered twice. **Please join us Monday, January 9th OR Tuesday, January 10th at 7 pm.** Locations are still being planned -- watch your email for more announcements.

President's Column

January is the season for new beginnings, resolutions and imagining possibilities. For years my tongue-in-cheek New Year's resolution was "Stay the course!" When I agreed to be President my one hope was merely not to steer JRUC into the rocks. And yet, somehow, the board's work is as ambitious as ever! Last year we ushered a major revision to our bylaws (among many other accomplishments), and this year we're examining our mission and our covenant, in addition to making sure that our finances are sound and that we take care of our building. How do we as a board and congregation make sure that our ambitious goals don't turn into the proverbial unused gym membership?

At the beginning of the church-year we split the board into focus teams for each of our goals. At our December meeting as each team gave a progress reports towards our goals I asked how the board as a whole could help each team, and in almost every case the answer was "I think we're fine – nothing for now"

I know that I tend to be reluctant to ask for help in my own life, always thinking that I'd rather "save" my friends and community for when I "really" need them. And yet, when I'm helping a friend I generally feel privileged and blessed to be able to help. Sometimes it's not enough to ask "how can I help?" With our ambitious goals, we must *insist* on helping each other and on holding each other accountable not just on what progress we've made, but on what responsibilities we've shared.

Charlie McNulty, Board President



SAVE THE DATE!

Appreciation Reception for
Fair Share Givers

Friday, February 17, 2017 at 7 pm

See more information

in the "Stewardship Stirrings" article



Financial Update

	November 2016	Year to Date
Income	\$26,292	\$84,367
Expenses	\$ 13,926	\$72,044

Our congregation's income was much higher than expenses for the month of November, thanks to our successful Reeb Rave and some members paying ahead on their pledges. Great news: our total fiscal year income is currently \$12,000 above our total yearly expenses.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



Children's Religious Education

I am excited for all of the upcoming events and activities! We will start off the New Year with the theme of Prophecy in Religious Education. We will explore how New Year's resolutions can help our children believe in themselves and make the world a better place. The children will explore how they have the power to change the world by changing themselves.

The RE Committee and I are looking for teachers and assistants for the spring semester. We are moving towards having the children's RE match the adult service. This means you will be on the same page as the children in the congregation. Our hope is that this fosters more multigenerational communication and allows parents to engage their children in these themes in a meaningful way. With this new concentration on themes we are also changing how we schedule teachers. Ideally, to demonstrate consistency for our children we will have teachers sign up for a theme. The themes run for an average of three Sundays.

However, we do understand that a commitment of three weeks in a row might be difficult for some and will not work for everyone.

Please don't hesitate to ask me any questions. This is your opportunity to keep covenant, contribute, and enrich the Religious Education program here at James Reeb.

If you have any questions please contact me at re@jruuc.org.

Alice Mandt, Director of RE

and we will be as one god
and we will be as one people

there will be an evolution of the human soul
we will know that be a part is to be truly whole
we will know the pattern of centuries rise and fall
we will know that the fate of one is the fate of all

and we will be as one god
and we will be as one people
-- Vienna Teng

Heather Yonker, Music Director

Music Matters



JRUUC Choir at the Winter Solstice Celebration

Cheers to a splendid year of music! Thank you for all that you have contributed in 2016.

Jane Aldrich
Rachel Avery
Becca Everett
Liam Dagnon
Chris Glad
Sarah Hallas
Rand Hill
Kirsten Johnson
Tom Kemble
Janice Knapp-Cordes
Craig McComb

Marla McFadden
Molly Mitchell
Jeri Parrott
**Alice Schuman-
Johnson**
Jean Skinner
Heike Saynisch
Catherine Stephens
Amanda Werhane
Barb Whitney
Laura Yin

Please, the next time you see **Rachel Avery** or **Doug Erickson**, offer them a hearty thank-you for their offering of music and accompaniment throughout the year.

Ahead in January

“Soon Love, Soon”
there'll be a fire burning in the temple of our peace
there'll be a soaring voice for our silent pleas
we will hold our broken circle and begin to pray
we will find a black and white in the gray

Justice at JRUUC



Updates from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES (<http://mosesmadison.org>) – an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state as part of WISDOM (<http://wisdomwisconsin.org/>).

Thanks to the Reeb members who attended the Health Impacts of Crimeless Revocations forum! Learn more at: <http://sentback.org/> and <http://www.rocwisconsin.org/>.

Everyone is welcome to attend the upcoming monthly meetings on the First Saturdays of the month. Socializing with coffee and cookies starts at 9:30 am; the meetings run 10 am – 12 noon.

January 7th at Lake Edge Lutheran Church
4032 Monona Dr.

February 4th at First Unitarian Society
900 University Bay Dr.

Madison Day of Action: Madison's Action Day will be **Thursday, March 30, 2017**. Members and friends of WISDOM congregations from across the state (including JRUUC) will be in Madison for a day of inspiration, education and action. The day will begin at Bethel Lutheran. The cost is \$25 per person, with scholarships available.

If you have questions, contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com.

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

We meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm January 9th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Jail Ministry Winter Clothing Drive

Beginning in December and going through February 11, 2017, our congregation is hosting a winter clothing drive for the Madison Jail Ministry.

The jail ministry is requesting donations of warm clothing all through the winter because those incarcerated during the summer months are often released in the winter without appropriate outerwear.

You can help by donating winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves. Men's sizes and large sizes are especially needed. A donation box is available at James Reeb.

You can also help by volunteering for two to four hours on the final day of the drive, Saturday February 11th, when we'll accept donations from other congregations, organizations, and individuals. Volunteers will help setup, process items, thank donors, and offer receipts as well as box & bag donations for delivery to the jail. Please contact Chris Glad to volunteer – 628-2069 or chrisgladwalks@gmail.com.



30 Days of Love 2017

How can we be a nurturing, humble and steady hand on the side of justice in the face of violence and backlash? **30 Days of Love 2017: Fortify the Movement** begins January 16 and ends February 14, 2017. Each week, we will offer tools and resources to help congregations reflect, learn and act around different sub-themes of fortification. From worship resources and weekly actions to opportunities to honor courageous love within our communities, stay tuned to the Standing on the Side of Love website for more information and resources.

<https://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/>

Membership Committee

Winter Time Fun

Mark your calendar for these events!

February 5, 2017: Ice Skating Party at Tenney Park after the Sunday Service. Bring your skates or rent them there!

March 10, 2017: Friday evening Games Night at James Reeb. We will have games for kids, kids and adults, and adults only.

New Member Highlight



Sabe Jones

What brought you to Reeb? Angry and despairing at the violence wrought by police on people of color over the summer, I asked my Facebook friends how I could get involved in combating the problem. One of them recommended Reeb as a local organization active in anti-racism efforts. So I looked up the calendar on the JRUUC website and dropped in on a PJS meeting. I liked the community enough to start attending services as well!

What are your interests? Social justice of course, creative writing, cats, dogs, and games of all sorts – computer and video games, board games, and tabletop role-playing games (I've even designed one!).

Welcome!



From the Office

Happy Holidays! I'll be in the woods of Tennessee for a few days, celebrating with a family gathering, many hikes, and a house full of books. As winter officially begins, my thoughts turn to cross-country skiing and ice skating. I now have several friends who enjoy both immensely and match my clumsiness, so outdoor fun is in store.

January means extra work for most Unitarian Universalist congregational administrators, as we issue employee W-2s, employer tax forms, and calendar year donation statements to generous members and friends.

Wishing you a joyous New Year and peaceful nights as we gather strength for the justice work we are called to do.

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



Stewardship Stirrings

Thanks again to the Fair Share Givers!

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.

If you consider yourself a Fair Share Giver, please come to an **Appreciation Reception Friday, February 17, 7 to 8:30 pm** at First

Unitarian Society (900 University Bay 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. 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 by visiting this website: <http://www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/budget/151840.shtml>

Thank you corner: Reeb Rave Volunteers

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 folks who made the Reeb Rave (JRUUC's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction) such a success in November.



Every fall a slew of people plan the festivities for JRUUC's biggest fundraiser of the year. This past fall, the theme was "Under the Sea." Great big thanks to the 2016 Reeb Rave coordinator, **Tom McClintock**. Other folks who volunteered include:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Catherine Quinlan | Martin Knapp-Cordes |
| Charlie McNulty | Molly Mitchell |
| Cindy Rudd | Pete Haney |
| Ellie Connolly | Rachel Avery |
| Erik Saynisch | Ray Mitchell |
| Heike Saynisch | Sarah Hallas |
| James Phillips | Steve Gotcher |
| Janice Knapp-Cordes | Susan & Adije Podebradsky |
| Joanne Keane | |
| Kelly Kearns | |
| Kirsten Johnson | |
| Leila Pine | |

...and everyone else we may have unintentionally overlooked!

The 2017-2018 Annual Budget Drive January Jumpstart

The Annual Budget Drive (ABD) is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to explore how we give to and receive from James Reeb as part of our Time, Talent, Treasure covenant.

This year's theme is all about Transformation. Your ABD team members are Kelly Kearns, Sandy Persons, Barb Whitney, and Kim Reain (ABD Chair). Please contact Kim with any questions you have.

Our ABD will look a bit different this year, as we are not planning any one-on-ones nor cottage style meetings prior to sending out the Financial Commitment Forms (FCFs). We will have fun at our Open House Celebration following a multigenerational Sunday service on April 2nd when FCFs are due. We will have opportunities for discussion about the ABD that we're calling Transformation Circles. More to come on that. We will connect with folks who forget or miss the FCF due date. We will have a community art display in the Narthex. Lastly, we will share our gratitude for your treasure and generosity.

We are working with the Stewardship Team, the Board of Trustees, and Rev. Karen to offer community building, education, and discussion over the next few months around the budgeting process, financial stewardship, and pledge distribution.

As always, this promises to be a fun and rewarding series of events! Thanks in advance for your participation.

Please save these ABD dates

March 5, 2017 Kick-Off Sunday

April 2, 2017 Sunday Multigenerational Service & Open House Celebration

Enter the Early Bird Drawing by turning your FCF in prior to April 2, 2017.

-- Kim Reain, Annual Budget Drive Chair



Camp UniStar is hiring!

Spend the summer working where natural beauty is rich, life is simple, and community is cherished on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota. Lots of positions are open, including Camp Director, Food Service Director, Lead Cook, Lead Baker, Waterfront Director, Assistant Director, Children's Program Director, Youth Program Director, and Program Area Staff.

Qualifications: lived away from home 1+ year; experience working in team; self-starter and motivated to help; able to live and work in the North Woods; experience in food service (kitchen jobs); experience working with youth or children (Children and/or Youth program); have or are willing to get lifeguard, CPR, and First Aid training (reimbursable)

Training and camp season is June 5 to Sept. 2, with some personalization of schedules possible.

Starting salary for first year general camp staff is \$270 per week, room and board included.

Application and position details at: www.CampUniStar.org. Please contact 612-354-6566 or jobs@campunistar.org with any questions.

Applications due January 31, 2017

Winter WomanSpirit

February 3-5, 2017

JUST WOMEN:

JUST WORLD

with Sister Simone Campbell
Held at the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of DeKalb

158 N 4th St, DeKalb, IL 60115

For more information, visit:

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



WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2017** 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 before our tours sell out! Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!



Standing Rock camp with snowy landscape
Photo taken by James Phillips



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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.