

# EAST BREEZE

Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin  
Volume 25, Number 3 — March 2017

**March Theme: Risk “A ship in harbor is safe — but that is not what ships are for.” – John A. Shedd**

## Connections

Our theme this month is timely, for we are surely facing the challenge of our lives. Immigrants, Muslims, journalists, activists, women, and transgender people are experiencing insecurity and fear as a direct result of recent national policy changes. These people, and others, are at risk for their livelihoods and their personal safety, and our national leaders seem dead set on moving into an authoritarian mode that will increase risk for many who believe and act in the name of freedom and equity. People we know and love are not safe.

We can choose to be quiet about this and not risk our own safety. But I don't believe for a second that we want that. And so I invite us to think about and talk about what risks we might choose to take, individually and collectively. Will you risk taking an action toward countering hate you hadn't previously considered? Will you risk increasing your financial commitment to our congregation, knowing we are of vital support to each other and our community? What other organizations will you risk supporting? Will we risk becoming part of a sanctuary network to protect people facing deportation? Will we risk speaking out as a congregation? For what?

I don't yet know what I'm capable of doing. I am afraid. But I know that the best way to counter that fear is to reach out to people who share my values, and support each other. This is a risk too, for it requires vulnerability, and honesty, and deep exploration of self. I fully believe that this community, with our compassion and openness and depth of heart, is exactly the kind of network we need to feel able to venture into that risk. I have learned that here, my opening into trust will be met with the same. Now is the time for us to see how taking risk can grow into creating support for ourselves and each other. Now is the time to risk transforming ourselves, our community, and our world. May it be so. May we be so.

In faith and love, Karen

## 10 AM Sunday Services

- 3/5 “Edges and Pledges”**  
**The Rev. Karen Quinlan**  
We are called, in this time of national grief and chaos, to examine ourselves – our resources, our abilities, our comfort zones. This morning, as we kick off both our annual budget drive and the theme of risk, we'll explore the growing edges of our commitments to ourselves and our faith community.
- 3/12 “Esther's Lot, and Ours”**  
**The Rev. Karen Quinlan**  
Our Jewish siblings are celebrating Purim this weekend – the holiday that marks the saving of the Jews of Persia from being destroyed by a political advisor to the king. In this story, Queen Esther has to face the question of whether she may be there for such a time, a question we'll explore for ourselves in our own time, this morning.
- 3/19 “The Risks of Emergence”**  
**The Rev. Karen Quinlan**  
Our Pagan siblings celebrate Ostara during this time when plants and animals, including many humans, are emerging from places in which they've spent the dark of winter. Emergence can also refer to the act of creating something new through interaction, and this morning we'll explore what that requires.
- 3/26 “MOSES: Faith in Action”**  
**Frank Davis and Sister Joan Duerst**  
JRUUC has been involved with the inter-faith coalition MOSES for five years. From banning the "I have a conviction" box on job applications to increasing funding for alternatives to incarceration, MOSES has been instrumental in raising awareness and

advocating for policy changes at the state and local levels. This morning we'll explore the spiritual roots that inform and sustain this important congregation-based organizing – as well as the risks we take in getting involved. Mr. Davis is the MOSES Organizer and Sister Duerst is Chair of the Religious Leaders Caucus of MOSES.

### **Wednesday Evening Vespers March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

Join Rev. Karen for a quiet reflective time of meditation, music, and sharing.

Vespers services will continue the third Wednesday evening through May 2017.

**Check-in question:** Who near you is taking a risk and needs reminding that others are watching with admiration and awe?

### **Minister's Office hours for March**

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!

Please note that Rev. Karen will be at the MOSES Day of Action at the Capitol on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and won't be holding office hours that day. But I'd love to see you at the Capitol!

### **Adult Religious Exploration News Windows in Black History**

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 9-11 am at JRUUC**

Facilitators Brandi Grayson (of the Young, Gifted, and Black Coalition), Karen Reece (of Justified Anger), and Laura McNeill (of Groundwork). We will continue to use the documentary *Hidden Colors* to explore history that has been hidden from us and how it connects to our realities today, to have small group discussions, and to share what we have been researching on our own – **what have you discovered?**



## **Transforming Lives & Communities Annual Budget Drive 2017-18**

### **Save these Dates:**

- **3/5** Kick-Off Sunday Service
- **3/12** Transformation Circle
- **4/2** Sunday Multigenerational Service & Open House Celebration  
Financial Commitment Forms Due Date  
Turn in your FCF before 4/2 to enter the Early Bird Drawing

**We hope everyone can join us this Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**, the first day of our Annual Budget Drive, as we explore how our congregation has and is transforming.

**Keep an eye out for the Annual Budget Drive packet that was mailed to JRUUC members and friends.** Please let Kim Reain or Elizabeth Barrett know if you did not get your packet.

In the past, we have had both one-on-one and small group gatherings. You will notice several differences this year.

- **Have you ever wondered how to complete your FCF, use the FCF calculation form or follow the Fair Share Giving Guide?** Please look to our lobby, officially called the Narthex, as we will have posters and bulletin boards with helpful information and details that are sure to inspire conversation.
- **Please join us at the Transformation Circle 3/12.** We will gather after service. Whether you are new to the ABD experience or you are more familiar with financial giving, ABD forms and pledge distribution, let's get together and share our stories and questions.
- **Our FCFs (financial commitment forms)** provide strength and sustainability to transform the caterpillar at our 4/2 Open House Celebration.

- **Feed the hungry caterpillar nature themed artwork from 3/15-4/1:** everyone is welcome to participate.
- **Mail in your FCF or hand in your FCF on a Sunday morning in the Narthex or to one of our ABD members. All FCFs are due by 4/2**
- **The video challenge is coming!** How have you been transformed by your involvement with JRUUC? We will have fun sharing the answer. Weekly emails in March will have details.
- **The Open House Celebration on 4/2** will have food, fun, art, thoughtful conversation and the Early Bird Drawing. We hope everyone will join us. Look for an RSVP sign-up in the lobby.

## President's Column

**Report Card Time!** Last September at our board retreat, we spent a Saturday morning determining our “Ends” (where do we want to end up) and our “Goals” (how do we get there). Ends represent a longer term vision, whereas Goals can be broken down to specific tasks to be accomplished in a given time-frame. If I had to give us a report card on our progress towards our Ends and Goals, I’d give us a couple of A’s and several Incompletes. We’ve made progress towards financial health and have studied pledge distribution and the five pillars of church finance. We are supporting the Budget Drive and Stewardship as they continue those conversations. I give us a solid “A” for financial strength and stability.

We also decided on three additional goals, and as inevitably happens, some other priorities have inserted themselves. The rest of our goals, however, are going to require the wisdom and commitment of our larger congregational community. To that end in March our board will host Congregational Symposiums to converse about three major topics. The first is our Covenant of Right Relations, our shared promise for how we live out our values with one another. The second is around creating a vision for how our building can help sustain and support both the James Reeb community and our larger Madison community. Finally, we’ll talk about our board of trustees itself, with the goal of determining the best size for our board in the context of how the work of the board has mutated over the past 20 years.

Each of these are areas where we can all contribute our own voice, and the Board really needs to hear yours! I hope you’ll make time in March to attend one of two opportunities to lend your wisdom towards expanding the vision of Reeb.

Charlie McNulty, Board President

### Early Bird Drawing

**The earlier you turn in your FCFs, the more entries you will have.**

Turn in your FCF on these dates:	Your number of Early Bird Drawing entries:
3/5-3/11	4
3/12-2/18	3
3/19-3/25	2
3/26-4/1	1
4/2	Due Date

Thank you for your participation in this year’s Annual Budget Drive,

Your ABD team members

Kelly Kearns, Sandy Person, Barb Whitney, and Kim Reain (ABD Chair)



**Join us for Games Night  
Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

We will have games for kids,  
kids and adults, and adults only

Sponsored by the Membership Committee

## Attend a Board Symposium

**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> after service or  
Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**

The Board of Trustees invites you to a special conversation around three areas of congregational life:

- The Vision for our building,
- Our Covenant of Right Relations,
- The number of Trustees for our Board

Child care and light snacks will be provided. Charlie McNulty, Colleen O'Hara, or any of our Board Trustees would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## Proposed By-law Change Vote Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Last month, the Board of Trustees voted to bring a proposal to be voted on at a congregational meeting to change the number of Trustees on our board from nine to seven. This will require an amendment to our By-laws. Because voting to change the number of Trustees at the same May meeting at which a slate of Trustees will be presented by the Nominating Committee introduces potential complications, the Board further voted to convene a **Single-Agenda-Item Congregational Meeting** to be held after service April 23<sup>rd</sup>. You will be hearing much more about this in the coming two months, and the Board invites and welcomes conversation about this proposal!



## **Soup & Bread Fundraiser!**

**Sunday, March 19**

Please join members and friends of this Congregation for good food and Conversation at an after-service meal. Interested in providing soup or bread?

Please contact Cindy Rudd at

608-469-5269 or [clrudd47@gmail.com](mailto:clrudd47@gmail.com).

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

Coordinated by the FUNdRaising Committee



## Financial Update

	<b>January 2017</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$3,947	\$121,665
<b>Expenses</b>	\$16,124	\$102,469

This month's income looks quite low, but this is a bookkeeping anomaly. In December we had received an \$8,800 donation for the endowment. This was accounted for as negative income in January when it was transferred to the JRUC endowment account. The total income without this line item was \$12,702, which is well within normal for January. Our year-to-date cash flow is still positive, and we are in good shape for the fiscal year.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

## March on Music Matters



**JRUC Choir**

**Risk** is not something new to me. I am sure the choir members know something of that about me by now. They have faithfully and successfully followed me through several musical **risks** since I arrived here at Reeb. This photo was from one such day, and just look at their glowing affirmative faces! Thank you choir, for your committed service!

Just yesterday during my morning mind wandering, I was contemplating the topic of risk. My brain had this thought: There seem to be two types, those that will just plow through when things get stressful, and those who will just back off. My second thought was how of course, like any platitude, the thought is a little too black and white and doesn't take in real



life, and context. The third thought was, OH my goodness, my newsletter is due, and the theme is risk! How can I use this?

I am notoriously the **risk** taker, the one willing to just keep going and going and going. Sometimes great things happen. Sometimes I stay in too long. What if I risked **not** being the risk taker? What if I risked taking on ....Ordinary?

**OMG!** I can feel my skin tightening up on me just thinking about it.

But just watch, that lesson will cycle around again and I will get another crack at it. The real finesse comes in the timing, delivery, and how your own **risk** will affect those around you. Are you a strategic **risk** taker or do you just leap? Have you considered deepening your definition of **risk**?

In reading through the Soul Matters materials this month, there were many bold platitudes about the risk of not taking risks. They always sound good on the surface but, consider this by **James Baldwin**: ***“To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger.”***

There are several great activities and spiritual assignments in the Soul Matters Risk packet this month. Choose one, or create your own. I’ve decided to provide you with a few of them here.

1. **Are you putting up with recklessness? (“Don’t be reckless with other people’s hearts, and don’t put up with people who are reckless with yours.” Kurt Vonnegut)**
2. **Are you scared? And if so, why aren’t you telling someone?**
3. How might that struggle of yours change if you took the risk of sitting down and listening rather than the risk of standing up and speaking? (“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” - Winston Churchill)
4. What about the risks of letting go? What about the boldness of taking a pass? Sometimes deciding to walk away from the cliff is as courageous and bold as jumping off.
5. Who in your life needs their vulnerability affirmed? Who near you is taking a risk and needs reminding that others are watching with admiration and awe? Who needs help

seeing that they aren’t simply exposed, but radiant? (“What makes you vulnerable, makes you beautiful.” – Brené Brown)

6. Dance and sing along with Janelle Monae’s “Tightrope”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwnefUaKCbc>

Or, make a list of your personal favorite empowering songs, listen to them and share them with me at [music@jruc.org](mailto:music@jruc.org)

If you are finding that you simply do not have time to try out any of these, or it is just too much philosophy, then I leave you with this simple insight from Bob Marley –

***“The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for.”***

This month’s hymn of the month is #119, “Once to Every Soul and Nation!”

We invite you to consider **RISK** and enjoy the related musical selections we will be serving: “Would You Harbor .....a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew? Would you harbor me, a risk-taker too? Consider “Cherishing Your Doubts” rather than labeling them as a negative. We’re “Gonna Get Through this World.....the best we can....”

And it could be even better, if you can **risk** supporting our music as a quintessential part of the worship experience during this year’s budget drive at James Reeb. ***Thank You!***

Heather Yonker, Music Director

### **Children’s Choir / Kids’ Music**

Would you like to see more kids’ music happening at Reeb? Would you like to help make it happen? Laura Jasiczek has volunteered to get some kids’ music going at Reeb, but is looking for your help. The plan is to have the kids rehearse most weeks during RE. Then, when there are multigenerational services or special events, the children will get a chance to sing. However, Laura can’t do it alone! Susan Podebradsky has volunteered to help with accompaniment on piano. We’d love to get some more volunteers to help rehearse with the kids. If this sounds like something you’d be interested in, please contact Laura at 608-215-3252 or [ldjasiczek@gmail.com](mailto:ldjasiczek@gmail.com).



## Exploring Membership Class Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

9 am to 1 pm

Lunch included

Come learn more about what it means  
to be a Member of JRUC!

Contact Peggy Haack

[peggyhack@gmail.com](mailto:peggyhack@gmail.com)

## Justice at JRUC



### Updates from MOSES

JRUC 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/>).

**WISDOM's Madison Action Day:** Join MOSES folks and others from around the state **Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** for a day of action. The doors of Bethel Lutheran Church (312 Wisconsin Ave.) will open at 8 am for a light breakfast and fellowship. The organized event begins at 9 am. Breakout sessions will be on various issues related to Criminal Justice Reform, Transit, Immigration, Jobs, and the Environment. After lunch we will proceed to the Capitol for legislative visits and other activities. We will finish back at Bethel by 4 pm. Register online at: <http://wisdommadisonaction.wixsite.com/mysite>. The cost for the day, including lunch, will be \$25. Scholarships are available for those who need one. Deadline: March 13<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Contact Carin B. at [cmbringe@gmail.com](mailto:cmbringe@gmail.com) or 608-244-2115.

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

This month, our meeting will be Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at [bwhitney@chi-squared.org](mailto:bwhitney@chi-squared.org).

## Sustainable Saturday Night The 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month January through November March 25<sup>th</sup>

Come to hear from justice and other activist student groups at East High School. Each group will speak about what their organization's work. We're hoping to have an EHS performance group as well. As usual, come for the potluck at 6, program starts at 7. All are welcome!

## Join UUs in the Southwest for One-day Mexican Border Tours March 31-April 2

If you ever wanted to see the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and border walls, learn more about immigration and the militarization of the border, or cross into Mexico to meet just-deported immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for decades and are trying to get back to be with their children and resume their jobs in the U.S., here is a rare opportunity to do so with other UUs and immigrant rights groups in Arizona. To learn more about each one-day tour, find housing and register, visit: <http://justiceda2017.weebly.com/immersion-excursions.html>. For more info on tour options, contact Leila Pine at [sabinosanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:sabinosanctuary@gmail.com).

## Warm Response to the Winter Coat Drive Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Jail Ministry winter coat drive!

Our congregation and neighborhood contributed over 30 coats and jackets plus hats, gloves and scarves. In addition, we were also the drop off site for other congregations and on February 11th our volunteers checked, counted, and bagged a total of 130 coats, 65 hats, 56 pairs of gloves and 32 scarves. Thank you to **Beth Esser, Cindy Rudd, Peggy Haack, and Danna Dold** for assisting with the collection.

Chris Glad, JRUC Coat Drive Coordinator

## **Important meeting of the City Council Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm**

Room 201 of the City County Building

The Sustainable Madison Committee has proposed a resolution for city of Madison operations to achieve goals of **100% renewable energy and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions**. This is BIG! We would be the first in Wisconsin to do this and join only about twenty other cities in the country. The more people who register approval or speak in favor, the more the City Council will be influenced. Come show your support for a sustainable future for your children and all the children!

## **Join in the UUA 2016-17 Common Read**

Unitarian Universalists have been reading *The Third Reconstruction* by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, leader of North Carolina's Moral Monday movement. Dr. Barber's book describes a "moral awakening of justice-loving people united in a fusion coalition powerful enough to reclaim the possibility of democracy." We will be joining with other UUs in the area to have a book group discussion in late May or early June. Read more about the book at:

<http://www.beacon.org/The-Third-Reconstruction-P1139.aspx>

## **Dane County UUs for Justice**

Representatives of each of the UU congregations in Dane County are meeting regularly and finding ways to better coordinate our activities and share our events. If you would like to know more, contact Rev. Karen, Barb Whitney. or Kelly Kearns. If you are interested in staying in touch with justice activities around town, consider joining this "Dane County UUs for Justice" Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1011304115614864/>

## **The Call to Sanctuary: How Will We Respond?**

As the new administration begins an authoritarian crackdown on immigrants and refugees, members of the JRUUC Board and the Peace, Justice and Sustainability group (PJS) have begun a conversation about how our congregation can step up in solidarity. In doing so, we join many other local congregations that are exploring ways to

support people facing deportation. Nationally, Unitarian Universalists are leading a new sanctuary movement. UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, has called congregations to action (see the video at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/witness/partners/newsanctuary>). Immigrant activist Jeanette Vizguerra, fearing removal by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), has taken up residence in Denver's First Unitarian Universalist Society with her children. In recent weeks, Madison has been spared the spectacular raids faced by cities like Austin, but removals are happening here. Some of our neighbors have recently approached local advocates for help after ICE apprehended their relatives and sent them to detention facilities in Texas. These sad stories are just the beginning. JRUUC Board members and the PJS would like to bring the conversation about what we can do to the rest of the congregation.

The idea of congregations providing sanctuary to immigrants has deep roots in Christian and other religious traditions. During the 1980s, many U.S. congregations, some of them Unitarian Universalist, provided shelter and other forms of support to Central Americans fleeing civil war and the repression of U.S.-backed governments. Their work ranged from providing financial and legal assistance to people threatened with deportation to participation in community alert networks, assistance with bond for people in detention and even offering shelter in churches to people threatened with removal. After the Obama administration began a campaign of mass deportation, congregations responded by beginning the Sanctuary Movement anew. In response to pressure from immigration advocates and sanctuary congregations, President Obama shifted his enforcement priorities to removable noncitizens with criminal charges and created a temporary residency program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) by executive order. This program gave a temporary reprieve and work authorization to removable noncitizens brought to the United States as young children.

Riding a wave of anti-immigrant hysteria, the Trump administration has issued draconian new guidelines and announced an ambitious plan to round up and deport more people. Over 100,000 DACA recipients are waiting to see what the new administration has in store for them. One DACA

recipient in Seattle has already been detained by ICE, which released a transparently forged statement from the young man that seemed to show an admission of gang membership. Under the Obama administration, ICE adopted a policy of not entering such sensitive locations as churches, schools, and hospitals during enforcement actions. Whether the Trump administration will continue this policy is anybody's guess. Clearly the situation is becoming increasingly urgent by the day.

In response, JRUUC board member Jeanne Lydon has offered to put together a task force to explore the possibilities for the congregation's involvement in sanctuary work. In a related effort, PJS members and other Reebers have attended city-wide meetings in January about sanctuary work and participated in national webinars organized by UURISE, a national nonprofit organization grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles that seeks to support immigrants and refugees. These recent webinars included an introductory workshop, a more in-depth exploration of the discernment process, and a workshop on the practical aspects of sanctuary work. At its February meeting, the PJS group allocated \$350.00 of its budget to support of immigrants and refugees, anticipating future crises. We intend to widen the discussion on how to support our noncitizen neighbors in the coming months. In doing so we join people of faith all over Madison who are coming together under Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice to pool resources and collaborate on immigrant solidarity work, in partnership with Latino-led organizations such as Voces de la Frontera. For more information, please contact Jeanne Lydon at [jeanne\\_lydon@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com) or Pete Haney at [phaneyster@gmail.com](mailto:phaneyster@gmail.com).

**Racial Justice: The Courage To Act**  
**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**8:30 am to 4 pm**

This Milwaukee workshop featuring Chris Crass, Racial Justice Activist and Trainer, will provide you with tools, action items, and courage to combat racism and stand on the side of love. Funded in part by Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin Unitarian Universalists.

For more information, visit

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racial-justice-the-courage-to-act-tickets-32103322903>

**Building Oversight Group now forming!**

Are you interested in future visioning for our JRUUC physical space? Instead of having a "Building Committee," the Board of Trustees is creating a new group that will be in charge of the Major Maintenance and Repair Fund and upkeep on items covered by that fund, keeping a prioritized list of projects for the Many Hands Coalition Coordinator and volunteers, and planning for improvements to our spaces in the future. This group will form in March, kick-off (with assistance to develop their structure, guidance, and accountability as well as writing a "charge") in April and meet 3-4 times per year. There will be one member from Stewardship and we are looking for three at-large members. We encourage new members who can help us see our building with fresh eyes and long-time members who helped us remodel. We are looking for Reebers with or without experience in visual aesthetics, home maintenance, gardening, and construction methods. If you are interested in being part of the Building Oversight Group, please contact Jocie Luglio at [jocie.jruuc@gmail.com](mailto:jocie.jruuc@gmail.com) or 442-8814, or Charlie McNulty at [charlie@kznf.com](mailto:charlie@kznf.com).



**From the Office**

Wow! I can hardly believe all the great activities available this month and next. No doubt you've noticed how packed this newsletter is with exciting events, including lots of social justice opportunities. I just want to plug one event – the WISDOM Day of Action Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> described in the **Justice at JRUUC** section. It is an empowering learning and networking time.

Many of you received a gorgeous Annual Budget Drive brochure in the mail recently. I've already received seven Financial Commitment Forms before the official kick-off, which is Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks you very much!

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





# Finding Our Partners: Faith in Action

MidAmerica  
Regional Assembly 2017



## MidWest Leadership School July 9-15

Mark your calendars and spread the word! After many successful summers at its Wisconsin location on the campus of Beloit College, MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) will take place this coming summer on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

MWLS creates opportunities to learn about Unitarian Universalism, about themselves as individuals and as members of congregations in a larger movement grounded in liberal theology. MWLS attendees come away from the experience with a better understanding of healthy organizational practices. This week-long intensive program is offered separately and yet collaboratively for adults and for youth, and seeks to provide its attendees with an experience of acceptance and love that transforms and inspires.

## Chicago Oak Brook Marriott Friday, April 28- Sunday, April 30

Registration for the 2017 MidAmerica Regional Assembly is now open! This year's theme is "Finding Our Partners: Faith in Action." In spite of our small numbers in the national religious scene, Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of every significant social change in our nation's history. Now, more than ever, we need to work with partners to have an impact in our cities, states and country. Join for an exciting weekend celebrating Unitarian Universalism in the MidAmerica Region. Find out more at [www.midamericauua.org/ra](http://www.midamericauua.org/ra) Register now and receive the early bird rate.



Is MWLS for you? A 2016 participant said that the program provided extremely helpful insights into the history of Unitarian Universalism, as well as an understanding of the ways current issues move today's congregations. The well-structured program of input, application and reflection provides a varied approach that appeals to diverse learning styles. Another participant was especially pleased to find the creation of intergenerational worship effectively modeled and implemented. MWLS is an experience rich in ideas for participants to take home to their current or future leadership roles.

Read more about MidWest Leadership School at <https://www.mwls.org/> and follow us on Facebook for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/mwls.org>



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 21-25 <http://www.uua.org/ga>

Come worship, witness, learn,  
and connect!

Would you like to be an official delegate from JRUC at General Assembly? Please contact President Charlie McNulty at [charlie@kznf.com](mailto:charlie@kznf.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](mailto:office@jruuc.org). The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **Statement: Condemning Anti-Semitic Acts**

February 22, 2017

**The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the rise of anti-Semitic acts nationwide:**

“Over the past several months we have witnessed a deeply disturbing rise in anti-Semitism, including the vandalism of a Jewish cemetery, bomb threats targeting Jewish community centers, and an increase in hate speech. On behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Association, I strongly condemn these vile acts of hatred and bigotry.

I have been in direct communication with my friend and interfaith colleague Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, to express my concern and to offer the full support of the UUA in combating anti-Semitism. I encourage UU congregations and leaders to reach out to their Jewish neighbors and partners to offer their support as well. All leaders—religious and secular—must speak out to condemn acts of hate and bigotry. When one faith community is threatened, we are all threatened.

Anti-Semitism thrives in a climate of fear and ignorance. We must be vigilant and compassionate during these troubling times. Unitarian Universalists remain committed to the ongoing struggle to recognize and affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”