

EAST BREEZE

Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 25, Number 4 — April 2017

April Theme: Transformation

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” – James Baldwin

“If what we’re working to change doesn’t change us, we’re just playing with blocks.” – Ron Engel

Connections

Transformation. It’s complicated. So this is a longer column than usual.

Two hundred years ago, our Unitarian forebears were living their tradition of focusing on covenant over creed, and finding themselves in the midst of a huge controversy over what that actually looked like. They had to decide what their churches would look like and who would be welcome there and how they would live their mission – and in order to make those decisions, they had to decide how uncomfortable they were willing to get as they learned to respond to the challenge of welcoming difference. For them, the difference was around allegiance to the original ideals of their Puritan ancestors, and they were defining themselves in relationship to the more conservative Congregationalists who shared the same roots.

There’s a controversy brewing right now, in our UUA. The Southern Region has just hired a white male minister into its top position, choosing him as a better “fit” than a Latinx female religious educator who is just as qualified. You may not know that Unitarians and UU institutions have, both explicitly and implicitly, discriminated against People of Color in ordination and hiring throughout our history. We have consistently leaned toward the more comfortable route of choosing allegiance to comfort and sameness, even as we strive toward justice in our work outside our institutions. This hire is being seen as a continuation of that discrimination, and many people and groups are calling on our national leadership to look at it through the lens of white supremacy culture – a phrase that means a set of cultural norms and standards in which white people are the most comfortable.

That last phrase is what makes this an issue of transformation. It takes a great deal of willingness

to change our individual selves to shift our institutions into a place of full inclusion. And the two cannot be separated. We have to ask ourselves if *we’re* willing to change to make it so we are welcoming and fair to everyone. How much? Are we willing to sing songs in different languages? Listen to stories that we might not resonate with, or whose points we actively disagree with? Are we willing to look each other in the eyes when we do things that make each other uncomfortable, and explain to each other why? Are we willing to listen when someone tells us that we’re making them uncomfortable? And change what we’re doing even if we don’t understand why they’re uncomfortable?

The Quaker activist and songwriter, Carrie Newcomer, sings these words of encouragement: “Come on and look inside you. It’s the best place to start. The greatest revolution is a simple change of heart.” We think we have to change all those things that are happening *out there*, and that change can happen as a direct result of our actions. And sometimes this is true. Especially in the arena of social change, where we need to very intentionally build momentum to create more just conditions. But more often, I’m learning, true change happens only when we take the time and the risk of sitting with something hard. **True change in the world is intimately related to our internal transformation, which is intimately related to our presence to our selves.**

This congregation has been working to make change in our community since its founding. I’m proud and grateful to be called to be part of this work. And I want to call you, in return, to look inside yourself to learn what you might sit with, toward the end of widening the circle of inclusion so that more people may be comfortably inside it. Let us take this transformational journey together.

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- 4/2 **“Honorable Harvest”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
Today marks the end of our annual budget drive! In this celebratory multigenerational service, inspired by your generosity, we'll hear stories and music, and explore for ourselves the transformative power of reciprocity.
- 4/9 **“Supporting Communities Under Siege”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
Every spring, the UU Service Committee plans a “Justice Sunday” that connects participants with people on the frontlines of today’s human rights movement, by focusing on one pressing issue. This year, the UUSC is asking us to support marginalized communities targeted because of who they are. At JRUC, we'll start a conversation about our possible involvement in the Sanctuary Movement that is forming in Madison. What might it look like for us to support Madison’s immigrant and refugee communities; and how might we be transformed in the process?
- 4/16 **“Starting Again”**
Eric Severson, FUS Ministerial Intern
It can hurt when we get knocked down, when reality doesn't match our expectations. Disappointment is part of life, but so is persistence. It is human nature to meet adversity with determination and hope. Join us as we examine our inborn capacity to transform our lives and the lives of others. Eric Severson, from La Crosse, is currently serving as ministerial intern at First Unitarian Society. He has returned to the path of professional ministry after an 18-year hiatus. Eric received a Master of Divinity degree in 1998 from Meadville Lombard Theological School and a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural journalism from UW-Madison in 1986. Prior careers included editing fantasy fiction novels, creating marketing material for a Catholic education publisher, and serving as publications director for a community theatre.

- 4/23 **“Coming of Age”**
Quinlan and the JRUC Youth and their Advisors
Our youth have been doing deep work – learning about Unitarian Universalism, exploring their beliefs and philosophies, and deepening their relationships with each other and our beloved community. Come to witness their transformational journeys, and stay for a brief congregational meeting on transforming our Board of Trustees – followed by a potluck celebration for our Coming-of-Agers.
- 4/30 **“Racial Awareness as a Spiritual Practice”**
Carin Bringelson and Devon Hase
Since September, an intentionally interfaith group of Buddhists and Unitarian Universalists have been gathering with curiosity and compassion to read, reflect, and respond in a suffering world. Carin, Devon, and members of the class will share their experiences with this Adult Religious Exploration.

Wednesday Evening Vespers **April 19th at 6:30 pm**

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

Check-in question: How has being part of the JRUC community transformed you?

Coming Of Age Recognition Day **Sunday, April 23**

You are all invited to join in a special celebration of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist youth upon their completion of the Coming of Age program. The service will be an opportunity for the entire congregation to recognize the commitment our youth have made to learning more about Unitarian Universalism, exploring their own beliefs and philosophies, and deepening their relationships with each other and our beloved community. A potluck meal and celebration will follow the service. Please join us as we come together to honor our youth and recognize their hard work and accomplishments over the past year.



Minister's Office hours for April

Wednesdays, 12:00 noon – 2:00 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!

Please note that Rev. Karen will be on vacation April 10-17, and out of town for a conference April 27-May 1.

Meet n' Greet with Rev. Karen: Sunday, April 9th after the service. Get a beverage & join Karen and members of the Membership committee for a chat.



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

Transformation Video Challenge continues until the end of May

"How has being involved with James Reeb Transformed you?"

We challenge individuals and groups to participate. Use your creativity and submit multiple entries if you like. You're welcome to send your videos to Kim Reain kim@reain.net or send an email to Kim to receive the instructions on how to upload your video to the YouTube Channel, #JRUCtransformed. Here is the JRUC's Transformed Channel on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKN_Ii3BDAp01KMTAJPEEg

Thank you all for participating in our Annual Budget Drive/ABD. Our Open House was Sunday, April 2nd. I hope you were able to celebrate with us and enjoy the food, fun, art and community.

The Annual Budget Drive is just one part of our year round fundraising. We are always looking for ways to vary our discussions and our techniques. Stewardship is ministry and therefore part of our daily congregational life. If you are feeling transformed, inspired, or curious and would like to participate in the ABD or even chair the ABD, please contact Kim Reain.

April 2nd was also the due date for your Financial Commitment Forms/FCFs. Our goal every year is to get 100% returned FCFs. In the next few weeks our Stewardship Ambassadors will make follow-up phone calls to finalize the status of FCFs that were not received.

I would like to thank the following volunteers who committed their time and talent to this year's ABD: the ABD Committee: Kelly Kearns, Sandy Persons, and Barb Whitney; the Stewardship Team: Carin Bringelson, Barb Whitney, and Heike Saynisch; Colleen O'Hara for her guidance and talent with our ABD brochure and the art displays in the Narthex; Rev. Karen, Charlie McNulty, Jocie Luglio, Bevo Buhr, Tim Cordon, Jean Lydon, Elizabeth Barrett, and everyone who volunteered to help with the Open House.

When volunteers risk taking on leadership positions, they are dependent on the response and cooperation from our congregation. I extend my gratitude to each member and friend who participated in this year's Annual Budget Drive. Everything about James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation is the result of our interdependent time, talent, and treasure. Together we are transforming lives and communities.

Kim Reain, ABD Chair



Rummage Sale to include T-Shirts! Saturday April 8th, 8 am to 2 pm

We don't usually sell clothes at the rummage sale but this year we are adding this one type of clothing. Do you have T-shirts with graphics, statements, or slogans that someone else might like to have? Donate them to the sale and in the future you can enjoy seeing those shirts on someone else!

We need Volunteers for the Rummage Sale and Bake Sale!

In addition to your donated items we need volunteers. Sign up in the lobby or contact Cindy Rudd at clrudd47@gmail.com or 608-469-5269. Volunteers are needed Friday night beginning at 5:30 pm to set-up. We need several people! Stop in for an hour or stay for the evening. If we have enough people, we can get done by 9 pm. Saturday, April 8th, we need volunteers beginning at 8 am to help with the actual sale. At 2 pm we need volunteers to pack up and drive the leftovers to St. Vinnies.

Membership News

Joining Sunday is April 9th!

If you've explored membership and think this is the time to make a commitment to join, we'd love to welcome you with the James Reeb welcome ritual during our worship service April 9th. If you've already "signed the book" (our official registry of members) but haven't yet been recognized, this is also the time for you. All who are interested, please let Rev. Karen Quinlan or Membership Chair Peggy Haack peggyhaack@gmail.com know of your intent. And of course, "signing the book" without any hoopla is OK, too, just not as much fun!

All who have officially joined by April 9th will be eligible to vote at our annual Congregational Meeting in May.

Proposed By-law Change Vote Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 23rd

The Board of Trustees will 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 23rd.

President's Column

In February and March the Board of Trustees has been discussing how we, as a congregation, can make sure that we're able to react with a strong voice to events as they occur in real-time, while at the same time honoring our 5th UU principle: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."

Recently the UUA released a statement of conscience (next page) and invited people to sign it. The "signature" page asks if you're signing it on behalf of your congregation. Rev. Karen chose to sign only as herself and to bring the question of "speaking for the congregation" to the Board.

The Board chose in March to authorize Karen to sign that specific statement on behalf of the congregation, but that doesn't address the larger question.

UUs are fond of the phrase "We are the ones we've been waiting for," which may be true, but no one else is waiting for us! If we want to have a strong voice in our community, we need to find a way to let Rev. Karen's voice be our voice. In any case, it always rings hollow for me when ministers invoke the phrase, "I speak only for myself." We called Rev. Karen as the minister of JRUUC not just to sermonize **to** us and commune **with** us, but also sometimes to speak **for** us. How and when that happens is an issue that we'll continue to study on the Board of Trustees, but there's no doubt that our world needs our leadership and our voice!

Charlie McNulty, Board President

UUA Declaration of Conscience

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change – actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet – we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil. As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.

The time is now.



Financial Update

	February 2017	Year to Date
Income	\$15,090	\$136,756
Expenses	\$19,848	\$122,317

As is typical for this time of year, we had another month of negative cash flow. The extra expenses include paying six-month's worth of our Building insurance and worker's compensation insurance. Also, in February we paid our \$600 MOSES dues. The good news is we are still ahead for the year and on track to meet our annual budget projections. Thanks to those who've submitted pledges for the next fiscal year!

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



Building Oversight Group now forming!

Are you interested in future visioning for our JRUC 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 kick-off in April (with assistance to develop their structure, guidance, and accountability as well as writing a "charge") and meet 3-4 times per year. There will be one member from Stewardship and we are looking for 3 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 (jocie.jruuc@gmail.com, 442-8814) or Charlie McNulty.

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.

Music Matters



Molly Mitchell with Heather Yonker

Just last Sunday, I saw it again. It happens all the time, but every time that it happens, it is just as moving and awe-inspiring as the first time Transformation!

In choir, we take on new music to learn, we practice, and we go through the mental and physical steps in order to make it happen. It is sometimes quite cerebral, but then when it comes time to sing for the congregation in service, the spirit enters and the great mystery of music and life transforms us into instruments. Flow happens. There is no better food for the soul than to be in front of the choir, seeing, hearing, and feeling their energy. Can you see it? Do you feel it? Open up and let us in! What incredible beauty! Perhaps during this month themed “Transformations,” you will think of this note, whether it applies to something you already do, or to something you would like to do. Acknowledge the cerebral, the thoughtful dedication and preparation and then at some moment, you must make yourself open to receive the spirit into your work. You must trust, and at once, let go of any insistence or required outcome. Let go, and let the transformation inhabit you.

Here are a few comments from choir members regarding how the choir experience transforms them:

“Choir gives me the opportunity to listen, create dissonance and harmony, and practice faith in each other and in the music.” -- Heike Saynisch

“My favorite moments are when our voices really blend, when I am aware of my own voice but it feels like it is part of a richer, more unified sound.”
-- Rachel Avery

“Singing with James Reeb choir has led me to be more confident at singing and performing on my own, and that has been a huge boost to my community involvement, my relationships, and my life in general. Singing is also sexy. Come sing with the choir.” — Molly Mitchell

“Singing is transporting. Geese flying in formation comes to my mind.” – Jeri Parrott

Singing for me challenges a completely different part of my brain from what's usually being challenged, which for me is both meditative and revelatory, if that makes sense....” – Kirsten Johnson

“Singing with Reeb Choir reminds me that good things happen when people work together. It pulls me out of my own head and connects my mind and heart to the rest of the choir members and to the congregation... to community.” – Marla McFadden

Here are a few different resources to investigate change and transformation:

We have “High Hopes” about opening your hearts in April!

“Changes,” David Bowie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QICoxvPFXI>
Video Meditation – “A Change Is Gonna Come,”
Sam Cooke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEBIaMOMKV4>

Try saying “yes” to possibility more often. For some inspiration, watch this:

“24 Hours of YES Challenge!” New Age Creators

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKQuY_X2WtY

“The Present,” Jacob Frey and Fabio Coala

A short film celebrating the way we are transformed by the courage of another. By transforming ourselves we transform others.
<https://vimeo.com/152985022>

“Let mystery have its place in you.” – Henri-Frederic Ariel

Heather Yonker, Music Director



Image from Heather Yonker

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/>).

Monthly Meetings are the first Saturday of most months. Join us at 9:30 am for networking & cookies followed by the 10 am to 12 pm meeting.

April 1st at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI 53705

May 6th at JRUUC!

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 Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, April 10th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.



Madison Earth Day Climate March April 22nd, 2 pm at the Capitol Square

<https://www.facebook.com/events/156033178229398/>

The future we want to see is up to us. Let's march together, and take back Earth Day, a proud Wisconsin tradition.

We are invited to march with all people of Faith. Meet at First United Methodist Church at 1:30 pm. FUSM is at 203 Wisconsin Avenue, one block off the square.

We will march for our families. We will march for our air, our water, and our land. We will march for clean energy jobs and climate justice. We will march for our communities and the people we love. We will not allow climate deniers to threaten the planet. We will not allow attacks on immigrants, communities of color, women, LGBTQ folks, and workers to become the new normal. It's more important than ever to stand up for what's right.



Sustainable Saturday Night The 4th Saturday each month January through November April 22nd

Celebrate Earth Day with cake, live music, and more! As usual, come for the potluck at 6, program starts at 7. All are welcome.



**Sunday, April 30th
12:30 to 3:30 pm
Please join us for the
JRUUC Many Hands Work Day**

**Pack a lunch or grab a sub
after service.**

**All are welcome! Snacks Provided.
We have a variety of indoor and
outdoor projects including
painting, organizing, cleaning,
and repairing!**

Any questions, contact Jocie Luglio
jocie.jruuc@gmail.com



From the Office

What a shock for all of us that Mandy Puntney, co-owner and baker at 4 & 20, died March 25th. Rev. Karen and I went to her memorial service to represent JRUUC and give condolences to current 4 & 20 employees Liz and Beth and former staff David and Phil.

36-year-old Mandy was such a warm light over at 4 & 20. For Valentine's Day, she and the staff made up treat bags of candy, glitter, stickers, and other fun surprises to give to their regular customers. A dog-lover, she baked special biscuits for canine clients in addition to her glorious "pop tarts," cookies, scones, and more. She also was a very committed bicyclist.

We're filled with extra grief when people die young because we imagine all the life, love, and joy they will miss. I plan to bake some cookies and share with friends and neighbors as a way to honor Mandy. And I'll get out my bicycle!

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

**Save the Date:
Wailing Yoga Workshop with Jenny Peek
Sunday, May 7th 2:30-4:30 pm
in our RE multipurpose room**

This workshop provides participants with the opportunity to explore how their culture impacts the ability to express the sounds of grief, suffering, frustration, and even physical pain. For example, gender, race and ethnicity, religion, age, and socio-economic status all have an impact on how we may express these feelings. Further, we may believe vocalizing pain and suffering is appropriate or inappropriate within bounds of time, space or location, and activity. The workshop moves from discussion intended to identify these boundaries at a personal level, into an opportunity for participants to connect with their own sounds of pain and suffering. What is pent up? For how long, and at what cost? Can we create our own space and time for connecting with the build-up of pain and suffering in our bodies, our spirits? What would this look like? The conclusion involves debriefing the experience. What if anything surfaced during the exercises?

Jenny Peek is a Unitarian Universalist minister who recently earned her Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School. Her most recent congregational experience was as intern minister for the UU Fellowship of Elkhart, Indiana. Jenny is passionate about providing opportunities for people to deepen their understanding of the relationships between culture and self, self and church, and self/church and the greater community.



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

As our congregations are experiencing greater attendance and members' activism in our communities, it is more important than ever before that we work with other faith communities to bring our values to the forefront. When we partner, our impact grows exponentially. We'll also have a Friday night forum with the **UUA Presidential candidates**. Early Bird Registration is just \$165 through April 5th! Find out more at www.midamericauua.org/ra



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 JRUUC at General Assembly? Please contact President Charlie McNulty at charlie@kzmf.com.



**James Reeb Unitarian
Universalist Congregation
2146 E. Johnson Street
Madison WI 53704
www.jruuc.org**

Rev. Karen Quinlan, Minister
(219) 221-3371 revkaren@jruuc.org
Elizabeth Barrett, Office Administrator
(608) 242-8887 office@jruuc.org
Alice Mandt, Director of Religious
Education (608) 698-4636 re@jruuc.org
Heather Yonker, Director of Music
(608) 628-3406 music@jruuc.org

Charlie McNulty, President
(608) 334-6060 charlie@kzmf.com
Colleen O'Hara, President-elect
(608) 332-4478 ohara1945@gmail.com
Jan Gordon, Secretary (608) 209-0263
janreads2@gmail.com
Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer
(608) 957-9320
jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com

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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.