

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 26, Number 8 — August 2017

“The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”
-- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Connections

My August column is the hardest one to write, because I've been away from you and feel less connected to our community than usual. I've been building connections in my wider world this summer, finding out what there is to learn by sharing stories and being present to the layers in each one. This practice is central to my theology, which is based on the idea that the Holy arises between us as we become aware of our connections and act to strengthen them and support each other.

In New Orleans in June, I heard a homeless woman's story about being pushed to the margins when her ability to make a living became limited. I heard a bartender's story about finding his freedom. I heard stories of Black Unitarian Universalists who had been pushed out of our faith tradition, and of some who are finding it possible to return. I heard personal stories from friends and colleagues that span the range of human emotion and possibility, and I shared some of mine.

At SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute) in July, I heard stories of UUs from across the country. Stories of finding our faith tradition, of leaving behind the pain or abuse of a previous tradition, of carrying values or precepts of a previous tradition into this one. Stories of connecting to nature, of creating music, of finding the Holy, of making relationships and tending relationships and ending relationships.

There is so much diversity in Unitarian Universalism, and so much we can learn from each other when we remember that all stories have truth and value and meaning. Every story widens our understanding of our collective story.

This month in worship, we'll hear stories of connection in our congregation, societal stories of how we should engage, personal stories of

marginalization, and stories of inspiration. We have a wealth of stories to hear and to tell, and to build our connections upon.

I'm looking forward to immersing back into the Reeb community, and hearing your stories!

In faith and love, Karen



10 AM Sunday Services

- 8/6 “What Does Love Call Us to Do?”**
Stewardship Team
Join us to explore the roots and results of generosity through storytelling.
- 8/13 “Healthy Disconnection?”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
With so much happening in our lives and our communities and our nation, it's important to remember to take care of ourselves. This can often mean creating and maintaining boundaries, and limiting what we take in. Today we'll explore the tension we face as we choose between engaging and stepping back.
- 8/20 “Intent vs. Impact: Micro-aggressions and Midwestern Nice”**
Virginia Harrison
Sometimes, even the most innocent-sounding question can actually insult or isolate someone. This morning, we will spend some time thinking about why what we say matters and how we might need to check our privilege.

8/27 **“The Five Smooth Stones of Social Transformation”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
James Luther Adams was a prominent Unitarian theologian who used the metaphor of five smooth stones to talk about building liberal religious community. Many people forget to extend the metaphor into social transformation, which was part of Adams’ life work. This morning, we’ll learn a little bit about his context, and how we might apply it to the work we’re facing today.



Minister’s Availability and Office Hours

Rev. Karen will be on study leave August 1-7. Please call Marla McFadden or Cindy Rudd for pastoral emergencies, and they will contact the minister on call. Rev. Karen will not hold formal office hours this month, but is more than happy to meet with you after she returns August 8th. Just call to set it up!

Covenant Groups for 2017-2018

This year’s Covenant Groups will begin meeting in October! We hope to form several year-long groups, for which there will be sign-up sheets on the Religious Education table in the Narthex beginning Sunday, August 6th.

There will also be an opportunity to form a short-term group that will follow the Membership Committee’s “Exploring Membership” classes; this group will be for people new to JRUC and others who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and their connection to it. See Rev. Karen for more information.

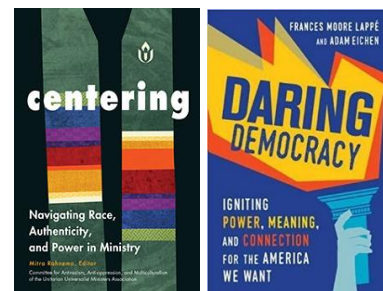


Soul Matters Themes for 2017-2018 “What does it mean to be a people of...”

September: Welcome
October: Courage
November: Abundance
December: Hope
January: Intention
February: Perseverance
March: Balance
April: Emergence
May: Creativity
June: Blessing

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

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com>



Our 2017-2018 UUA Common Reads

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry and *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want* have been chosen. A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. It can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. <http://www.uua.org/books/read>.

President's Column

Our biggest challenge as a board this year may not be navigating what role we could fill as a Sanctuary Congregation or how to recruit and manage volunteers, it may be scheduling our meetings! Our major accomplishment at the July meeting was finding a date for a board retreat that will work for most people's calendars.

Last year our board retreat got us off to a great start by helping us to imagine the future of James Reeb UU Congregation and then put into place some concrete steps to accomplish our goals. When I first started as a board member, I didn't have any goals as a board member or much of an imagination for what JRUUC could become. I think that's a real challenge for a new board, and it's one I'm excited to tackle this month as we spend an entire summer morning thinking about the future of JRUUC.

What is your vision for JRUUC? When you close your eyes and imagine approaching the building, walking through the doors, taking a seat in the sanctuary, what is different? What is the same? We'd love to hear your vision!

Charlie McNulty, President of the 2017-18 Board of Trustees

Financial Update

	June 2017	July 2016 - June '17
Income	\$11,426	\$188,287
Expenses	\$18,326	\$181,582

These numbers represent the end of the JRUUC fiscal year 2016-17, after all expenses have been paid and after subtracting \$3,628 from the total income. \$2,628 in "income" was actually a surplus carried over from 2014-15 and the rest (\$1,000) is extra money from our Chalice Lighter's Grant that will be carried over into 2017-18.

The fortunate difference between income and expenses, though, will carry over to 2017-18 and can be applied by the Board of Trustees to that budget. This surplus occurred because many programs did not spend their budgeted amounts and the staff's health expenses were budgeted as more than they turned out to be. These conditions are probably not going to continue into the indefinite future.

John Mathis, Treasurer

Music Matters



Stephen Alltop, Greenlake Music Festival 2017

With great pleasure and gratitude I share news with you about the Green Lake Festival of Music, held annually at Ripon College. Do you know of it? If not, be sure to watch for it next year with a series of excellent concerts in nearby Ripon, WI. While investigating the possibility of a conducting workshop with Stephen Alltop, I was awarded a scholarship to attend the complete Choral Institute for four days this summer.

Dr. Alltop's talents spread across several disciplines. He not only conducts but is also an excellent pianist, harpsichordist, and organist. He presently serves as Music Director of the Apollo Chorus of Chicago, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, and the Green Lake Choral Institute. For this event he skillfully led us through a Water-themed concert with humor, meticulousness, and grace. Pieces ranged from Handel's "Chandos Anthem" to "Elijah" by Mendelssohn and some fine arrangements of familiar popular music. John Hughes, director of choral activities at Ripon College led us in an active aleatoric piece by Eric Whitacre called "Cloudburst."

We also prepared a world-premiere arrangement of "Nibi" by Jonathan Posthuma. In the Ojibwe tradition, women have a sacred responsibility to respect, honor, and express gratitude to the water. Dorene Day of the Water Walkers wrote the Nibi Water song at the request of her grandson. John Posthuma has created a beautiful arrangement that resonated deeply for me. Guest soloists Warnell Berry, Lauren Cook, Callista Decramer, Dimitri German, Chelsea Lyons, Josefien Stoppelenburg, and Ryan Townsend Strand provided voices that reach right into the heartstrings and keep even

amateur singers alert and inspired to perform their best. Marty Vajgrt provided solid piano accompaniment for all of the rehearsals. We appreciated his calm demeanor and focused skill.

The chorus included a wide variety of local talent and people visiting from other areas of the Midwest. They made for a warm and friendly environment. This is an event I would recommend whether you like to sing or are simply looking for summer concerts to attend.

For more information about Nibi Walk, their mission, music, and upcoming projects, visit www.nibiwalk.org. The Green Lake Festival of Music is funded in part by the Arts Midwest Touring Arts Fund, NEA and the WI Arts Board, the Crane Group and General Mills, with additional funding from local businesses. Private donations are welcomed. www.greenlakemusicfestival.org.

Please contact me at music@jruuc.org if you are interested in singing with the choir this coming season!

Looking forward to seeing all of you again in September for a big "Welcome Home!"

Heather Yonker, Music Director

Justice at JRUUC



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity

MOSES is a non-partisan interfaith organization that works to promote social justice with a focus on ending mass incarceration.

MOSES Monthly Meetings: where we reconnect and reenergize around the issues that we care about so much.

The next meeting will be:

Saturday, August 5th at First Unitarian Society
9:30 am coffee & fellowship; 10:00 am meeting.

Volunteer Backpack-Stuffing Party with 100 Black Men and others

Thursday, August 10th, 4 to 7 pm

During 2017, the Back to School Celebration will endeavor to provide school supplies and vital services and exposures to more than 2,000 economically disadvantaged youth and their families.

Last year, more than 200 individuals representing 34 partner organizations assisted members of the 100 Black Men of Madison in this preparatory activity. This year, UU's from all three Madison congregations will be joining in this party.

Contact **Tim Cordon** if you would like to join us at Madison College Truax Campus 1701 Wright Street.



Join with other Madison UUs for the Pride Parade Sunday, August 20th!

Wear your yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" shirt or your "Black Lives Matter" shirt if you have one. If you still want a yellow shirt, see James Phillips or Kelly Kearns after a Sunday service.

We will carpool and/or bike together after service to secure our spot as "Madison Unitarian Universalists" around noon between the 500 and 600 block of State Street. Parade starts at 1 pm.

Want to help create signs or artwork for the parade, or participate in the UU Rainbow Flag Team? Go to the Pride Parade prep at First Unitarian Society Sunday, August 13th beginning at 12:30 pm.

Contact Kelly Kearns with questions:
kearns@uwalumni.com.

2016-17 Share the Plate Total
Great news! Through Share the Plate,
Reebers gave \$5,346.00 to
26 worthy organizations, all receiving
over \$145, with a few receiving over \$300.
Thanks to everyone who donated.

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

This month, our meeting will be Monday, August
14th. All are welcome to participate the second
Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email
Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night
The 4th Saturday each month
January through November
August 26th

Potluck at 6 pm; Program begins at 7
Childcare is provided! For details, contact
Tim Cordon at
timc@fusmadison.org



From the Office

My goodness, August is here already! August
means Dane Dances, the Orton Park Festival, and
some Central Park sessions, all opportunities for
dancing outside.

I have been busy finishing the bookkeeping for
2016-17. Bills for what we've spent often arrive a
month later, which means that in July I am
constantly switching between two congregation
years to print checks for payment. Now, that is all
done as we look ahead to the many ways we will
accomplish the work we are called to do in 2017-18.

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



Mark your calendar for a:
Social Justice Planning Retreat
Saturday, September 30th
8:30 am to 1 pm

Interested in helping JRUUC
to identify how to best
Coordinate our justice work?

Join us September 30th at
First Unitarian Society's Isom House.
We will share a meal together.
All are welcome.
More details to come!



Reeb Campout September 16 - 17
Our JRUUC Fall Camping Trip is coming
up! Mark your calendars for Saturday,
September 16th through Sunday morning the
17th to join us at the Lake Farm Park group
campsite. Come for any part or all of the
weekend. Meals are potluck, so bring food
to share. Contact Sarah Elmore at 257-2712.

Winter WomanSpirit February 2 – 4, 2018



Holly Near

Women & Religion is proud to present

I AM WILLING with Holly Near

For 40 years Holly Near has been a shining light, combining her music and activism, sharing her joy and passion; She accesses all of these to celebrate the human spirit.

Holly will present a workshop on Saturday morning and sing a concert that evening. On Sunday Holly will participate in the worship service. We expect this conference to fill up so register early!

Entry to the concert is not included in the conference price; concert tickets will be made available to conference registrants first.

WWS2018 will be held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston: 1330 Ridge Avenue, Evanston IL 60201

The Women & Religion Committee, and all Committee sponsored events, are open and welcoming to all those who identify as female.

<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.