

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 27, Number 3 — March 2018

March Theme: What does it mean to be a people of balance?

“We seek moments of balance between times of tipping over.”

-- Kassie Coleman

Connections

Balance is an elusive thing. I think we often see it as meaning that we’re “keeping all the balls in the air,” and striving to do that “effectively” or “well.” I don’t know about you, but for me, that’s a setup for feeling like I’m doing exactly the opposite! I’m learning to think of balance as less of a destination than an invitation – a stillpoint on which we can pivot as we turn to all the various things in our lives. It can allow us to catch our breath, and find or remember our center so we can live and work from that center. I’m learning to ask what my balance is for, rather than simply seeking it for its own sake. Maybe balance isn’t the goal, but the source of strength that gets us where we need to go. I think this can be true for us as a congregation as well, as we navigate what’s important for us to explore together, and what’s important for us to act on together.

Of course, the opposite is true when we’re talking about money – balancing the budget is the goal of our annual drive! It’s no coincidence that we’re exploring what it means to be a people of balance as we talk together about how much of our treasure we will offer to sustain our congregation and our work. You’ll hear plenty about our goals of continuing to support ourselves, our staff, our community, and our denomination this month. As we have these conversations, I invite you to think about our congregational balance point - on what do we pivot? What is at the center of JRUUC that informs our decisions on how we will be with each other and how we will show up in our community? I look forward to exploring this with you!

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- 3/4 “Where Are We Going?”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
We have much to celebrate, and to look forward to! As we begin our annual budget drive, we’ll look back at some of our accomplishments, think about what might be ahead, and dedicate the folks who have volunteered to be ABD Café Conversation hosts.
- 3/11 “A Case for Reparations”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
This Sunday, on the anniversary of James Reeb’s death in Selma, Alabama, we’ll explore the theory and potential impacts of reparations to the Black community - on of us. Bev Buhr provided the creative spark for this sermon, through this year’s Reeb Rave auction.
- 3/18 “The Guy on the Bus” by the Rev. Bill Neely, read by Charlie McNulty**
This sermon focuses on how we look after each other and our community, and was the UUA’s Annual Stewardship Sermon Contest 2017 winner. Rev. Bill Neely serves the UU Congregation of Princeton, NJ.
- 3/25 “What’s Wrong With Tipping Over?”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
Balance is less a static space of peace, than a stillpoint on which we pivot for just moments at a time as we turn to something new. Today we’ll explore balance as a place in which we may catch our breath as we lean into all the things in our lives.

Check-in question: What does it mean to you to be in balance?

Minister's Availability and Office Hours in March

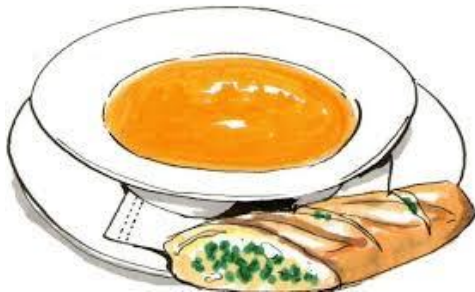
Rev. Karen is in the office on Wednesdays between noon and 2 pmj. She can also be found at Café Zoma on Thursdays from 1 to 3 pm.. And she's more than happy to meet with you for a cup of coffee/tea or a walk at any other mutually agreed-upon time – just call to set it up!

Rev. Karen will be out of the office during spring break, Monday, March 26 until Friday, March 30. She will not check email or hold office hours that week, but she can be reached via call or text.



Wednesday Evening Vespers March 21 at 6 pm

Join Rev. Karen for a time of stillness, song, and reflection.



Soup & Bread Fundraiser! Sunday, March 11

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.

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

Coordinated by the FUNd Raising Committee

Membership

Are you a Friend who is considering Membership in James Reeb UU? Join us Saturday, March 10!

Our Spring Membership Class will be held **Saturday morning, March 10 from 9 am to 1 pm** (lunch is included). Rev. Karen and members of the membership committee will engage you in conversation about your beliefs and values, plus you'll learn more about our liberal faith and its history, and more specifically about the James Reeb UU Congregation – what it means to be a member, how our congregation formed and how it is currently governed, and how you can help shape our ministry as a member.

If you want to sign up or have questions, please contact Rev. Karen or contact Membership Chair Peggy Haack at 608- 469-7687 or peggyhaack@gmail.com . If you need child care in order to participate, we must have advance notice of at least three days.

Coming to the class does not commit you to membership, but if you do choose to join us, we will welcome you on **Joining Sunday, March 25!**



2018-19 Annual Budget Drive ABD

Where are we going?

Spring Solstice is this month, something I'm looking forward to. What are you looking forward to? Could it be our 25th Anniversary celebration? The Annual Budget Drive?

ABD information was mailed out recently. If you did not receive it, please access the three parts of the mailing by going here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ci275JOWFvj153EqGjAr7LF3kbpJyBrX6eJVm3gaLV4/edit>

25 Years: Celebrating our Story

Please look to our foyer for sign-up sheets for the ABD Cafe Conversations where you'll join others in stewardship conversations about shared visions for James Reeb's future and have an opportunity to complete your Financial Commitment Form.

There will be art in the foyer too. Are you interested in helping with the ABD, Stewardship or the foyer art? Please let me, Kim Reain (608-698-5051) know.

I'd like to thank Colleen O'Hara for her help with our ABD logo and postcard. Thanks to Brian McNurlen for his help with the postcard. Thanks to all the folks who are stepping up and hosting our tables at the ABD Cafe Conversations: Charlie McNulty, Marla McFadden, John Mathis, Mary Wagner, Jan Gordon, Beth Esser, Jocie Luglio, and Ellie Connolly. Thanks for Rev. Karen for her guidance and support. Thank you to Elizabeth for all the behind the scenes support. I'd also like to thank the 25th Anniversary group for their inspiration and art.

When you take on a leadership role, your success is directly dependent on the volunteers who are by your side along the way. I am deeply grateful.

Let's celebrate 25 years together as we dream and plan for our next 25 years.

**We are thoughtful,
compassionate stewards who
commit our money toward
building community, working
for justice,
and nurturing spirit.**

Save these dates

Due date for Financial Commitment
Forms: **Sunday, April 1**
(That's no April Fool's Joke)

ABD Café Conversations:

Wed. March 14, 6 - 8 pm
Sat. March 17, 9 - 11 am



**Our Namesake: The Rev. James Reeb
January 1, 1927 – March 11, 1965**

The Rev. James Reeb was a white Unitarian Universalist minister. Deeply committed to the non-violent struggle for civil rights, he had gone to Selma, Alabama in response to an appeal from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Reeb was viciously attacked by men opposed to civil rights on March 9, 1965 and died two days later. His death helped turn the tide of public opinion in favor of federal legislation to guarantee voting rights for the country's black citizens.

In March we'll honor James Reeb and share historical photos in the glass case in the foyer.

Each month this year we'll share a bit of JRUUC history and invite you to join in the adventure by sharing stories, learning about our congregation and celebrating our community.

If you have photos of our community to share please contact Colleen O'Hara: ohara1945@gmail.com.

*Celebrating 25 years of nurturing spirit,
working for justice, and building community.*



Financial Update

January 31, 2018	Fiscal Year to Date
Income \$11,607	\$121,386
Expenses \$16,164	\$110,357

The above numbers show that income is wildly seasonable, as we expected from experience. Yes, our income fell below expenses, but the year-to-date income reflects the very strong pledge payments in November and December. We can expect monthly receipts to remain below expenses for the months to come. What counts, of course, is the difference at the year's end, and I'm concerned about that.

Unfortunately, there's a necessary repair of our fire alarm system that costs \$2100, not contained in our budget. We passed a budget last May that projected a deficit of \$14,641, mainly to increase the compensations of our staff to fair levels. By very generous supplemental increases in pledges, plus refinancing our mortgage loan and additional new pledging, we have reduced our budgeted deficit to \$5,427. I consider this surge amazing, but the money to cover the alarm will have to come out of our cash reserves, as will the money to cover the deficit. This will reduce our cash and will need to be accommodated by reducing important reserves we have prudently established for unexpected costs (say, heating equipment) that will surely occur at some point. Those reserves are enough to absorb the deficit, but we will need those funds in the future.

Thus, it is *terribly* important for all of us to be as generous as we possibly can when we respond to our annual pledge drive! We cannot continue to operate with a fiscal deficit, and so it's crucial that this year's budget drive surpass last year's.

Best wishes,
John Mathis, Treasurer

Justice at JRUUC

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, February 12. All are welcome to participate the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email Barbara Whitney at salbwhitney@gmail.com.

Sustainable Saturday Night March 24, 2018

Gather at 5:30; Dinner at 6; Program at 7 pm
More Information to come.

"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" TRAININGS FOR SANCTUARY VOLUNTEERS

The Dane Sanctuary Coalition has scheduled additional trainings for Dane Sanctuary volunteers who have agreed to provide in-person volunteer assistance with anyone who goes into sanctuary. While we do not yet have anyone in sanctuary, that could happen at any time and anyone who will provide this volunteer assistance needs to be trained.

March 14, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ,
1501 Gilbert Rd.

RSVP: office@orucc.org or 608-271-7212

March 25, 1 - 3 pm

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
2401 Atwood Ave.

Please try to make it to one of these sessions so that you are eligible to provide in-person volunteer assistance if we host someone in sanctuary. After we complete these sessions, we will review our volunteer list to see whether or not additional training sessions are necessary, but for now, these are the sessions we are offering. Once these sessions have finished we will consider whether a training at JRUUC is needed. For more information, please contact

**Leila Pine Jeanne Lydon Peter Haney , or
Kirsten Johnson .**

WHY PUT A BEDROOM IN THE BACK OF OUR BUILDING? GETTING UP TO SPEED ON SANCTUARY AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

This past Fall, the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation voted to become a sanctuary hosting site. When we did this, we realized that we would have to provide private sleeping quarters and a shower to adequately house an immigrant in sanctuary. Right now, the Sanctuary Leadership Team (SLT) is working on raising the roughly \$30,000 this renovation will require and coordinating volunteer activities related to sanctuary work. The Board has also created a Building Renovation Taskforce (BRT) to oversee the physical and business details of the improvements, with an eye to all aspects of JRUUC's mission work. As we think about changes to Reeb's space it is worth reviewing the renovation plan as it stands. The SLT's predecessor, the Sanctuary Task Force, put great thought and effort into figuring out how to accommodate an immigrant in sanctuary. Changes to the plan may happen, but the SLT, along with Reeb member and architect Ed Kuharski have laid a solid foundation, if you'll pardon the pun.

To understand the existing plan—let's call it "Plan A"—we should first remember the needs it seeks to meet. An immigrant in sanctuary will spend 24 hours a day, 7 days a week inside JRUUC. This person will need a private sleeping space and a place to shower. During the day, the person in sanctuary will move throughout the building and use the kitchen at mealtimes. Sanctuary volunteers will always be on site also. Plan "A" calls for carving out a sleeping space from the Eastern side of the Multi-Purpose room and expanding today's gender-neutral bathroom to include a shower. The bathroom would still be accessible to the public. The Sanctuary Taskforce, with help from Ed Kuharski, chose to present this plan to the Congregation because it both met our needs and fit building code requirements at a reasonable cost.

JRUUC's zoning allows for habitation as long as there is a dedicated sleeping room with adequate light and ventilation. Specifically, there must be window glazing equal to 8% of floor space and ventilation equal to 4% of floor space. The window must be low enough to allow egress in case of fire, with a sill no more than 44" from the floor of the room. We also want the window to afford some privacy. A smaller space requires a smaller window. Furthermore, the heavy locking door leading into the space could provide privacy and a degree of fire safety to a guest. According to code, a sleeping room must be isolated from the building's ductwork, with a damper to close it off in case of fire. This is possible in our chosen corner of the Multi-Purpose Room but more difficult in larger rooms like the Nursery and the Library. The Nursery, for example, has walls that do not extend to the top of the roof deck and therefore cannot provide a barrier to smoke and fire.

According to City code, a habitation room cannot have another purpose, so if we convert an existing room into a bedroom, we lose that room's current functionality. The SLT and Ed Kuharski felt it was more efficient to simply create a sleeping space in an underused portion of an existing room than to create a sleeping space AND move something as important as the Nursery or the Library. In Ed's words, we looked for a space that had something to give. It's worth mentioning that an overnight volunteer could sleep anywhere—that person's brief presence is not a "habitation," according to code.

As we work out more details on the proposed renovations, Plan A will surely evolve. The BRT and the SLT will keep the Congregation up-to-date and will conduct regular listening sessions. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Building Renovation Taskforce, please contact the Rev. Karen. If you wish to help out with the Sanctuary Leadership Team, you can contact Jeanne Lydon, jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com Leila Pine, sabinosanctuary@gmail.com Pete Haney, phaneyster@gmail.com Tom Boswell, tomboswell2002@yahoo.com Kirsten Johnson, kirstenrjohnson24@gmail.com or Rev. Karen.

Adult Religious Exploration

Courageous Conversations on Culture

"White Supremacy Culture" has been in the news lately, both nationally and within the denomination. What does it even mean and reference? What choices do we have to better understand it – and ultimately create something more just?

Join Rev. Karen and members of our congregation and First Unitarian Society to reflect on and discuss the characteristics of White Supremacy Culture

On these Mondays, 7 - 8:30 pm:

March 19th – objectivity

April 16th – power hoarding;
fear of open conflict

April 30th – either/or thinking;
progress is bigger, more

May 21st – final reflections



Got Race?

America's Most Successful Ad Campaign

Free public lecture

Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

At First Unitarian Society

The Rev. Dr. Thandeka will trace the hidden history of racial identity-formation and how whites and blacks were made in America. The Rev. Dr. Thandeka is an ordained UU minister and congregational consultant and founder of affect theology, which studies religious experience from the standpoint of emotions. She is also the author of *Learning To Be White*.

<http://revthandeka.org/about-rev-thandeka.html>



Administrator Thoughts

Good heavens! I am just now getting over a terrible cold virus after three weeks. Fevers, sore throat, stuffy nose, headaches, and coughing. I missed just a day and a half of work, but moved in slow motion for a while (picture a dark-haired sloth with glasses).

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

March to the Music



Marla McFadden and Jeri Parrott

JRUUC Choir members ROCK! With a notable balance of care and support for each other, themselves and the congregation. I notice special efforts every week when we gather and the inspiration spreads. The choir faithfully continues with enthusiasm under their covenant to enhance, through music and dedication, the worship service for the congregation. Please consider their value, effort and commitment during the upcoming budget drive!

We strive to provide a variety of music in related themes and topics that are important to all of us and to nurture new members and youth in helping to carry on that tradition. This past month we enjoyed meeting some new visitors that came to sing with the choir: Welcome Barbara Vedder and Carl Landsness!



Recently, Rebecca Everett knocked our socks off with an original composition, “Poor Preacher’s Son” (a guitar/vocal solo) with well-crafted lyrics and melody lines that drew one into the story and reminded us to heed the choices we make or don’t make. Becca and Brian McNurlen also provided a warm welcome to the service with the invitational prelude, “Come My Friends.”

Songs this month will include “**Dreams**” with text by Langston Hughes and special accompaniment with Laura Jasiczek on flute. Just last week, I noticed her name on a hymnal dedication honoring her daughter’s love of music. Thank you Laura and Ella!

March 4, as a way of honoring “We” as a whole at Reeb, we sang “We Are” by Ysaye Barnwell, a tapestry of rhythm and words, with Sarah Hallas singing the lead melody line. We are truly savoring sound during rehearsals of Palestrina’s “Sicut Cervus” and brushing off our Spanish with the hymn of the month “Nada Te Turbe.”

Here I share with you my selections from this month’s Soul Matters:

Make a moment for yourself:

Balancing Self-Criticism and Self-Compassion - TED Talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvTZBUSplr4&t=4s>

Or for tips from **Nigel Marsh, balancing work and life:**

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

“Both Sides Now” by Joni Mitchel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIYu4EHq0Lo>

“Only One Thing Required of Us” by

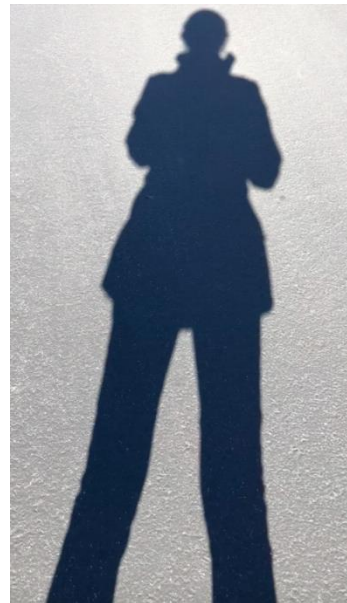
Kendyl R Gibbons

<http://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/6038.shtml>

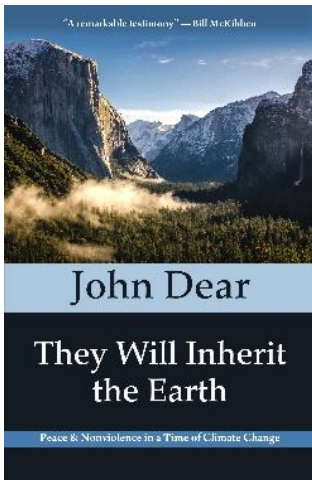
There is, finally, only one thing required of us: that is, to take life whole, the sunlight and shadows together; to live the life that is given us with courage and humor and truth.

We have such a little moment out of the vastness of time for all our wondering and loving. Therefore let there be no half-heartedness; rather, let the soul be ardent in its pain, in its yearning, in its praise.

Then shall peace enfold our days, and glory shall not fade from our lives.



Heather Yonker, Music Director



**Wednesday,
April 4 at 6:30 pm**
Father John Dear, longtime activist, priest, author and Nobel peace prize nominee, will read from and discuss his new book, “They Will Inherit the Earth,” at

JRUUC. Inspired by the third beatitude, “Blessed are the meek, they will inherit the earth,” this landmark work argues we need to help build the global grassroots movement of nonviolence if we are to protect creation. Fr. Dear will invite audience members to take new steps into active solidarity with Mother Earth and suffering humanity and to welcome a new culture of peace and nonviolence. To RSVP go to: <http://bit.ly/FrJohnDear>



The Dane County TimeBank & partners are proud to present...

A screening of **CIRCLE UP**, Julie Mallozzi’s award-winning documentary on the topic of justice, forgiveness, and building relationships as a way to stop the cycle of violence.

The director will be available for Q & A after the event followed by a panel discussion with individuals involved in restorative justice initiatives locally.

This event will provide a public forum to focus on and continue the community dialogue on this crucial topic.

Saturday, March 10, 2 pm

Discovery Building, UW Madison campus
330 N Orchard St., Madison, WI 53715

Synopsis: After the brutal slaying of her teenage son, Janet Connors reaches out to her son’s killer to offer a chance for forgiveness. They team up with a group of mothers of murdered children to help young people in their community break the chain of violence and revenge. *Circle Up* is a call to action for reframing approaches to crime and punishment through the lens of restorative justice, forgiveness, and accountability.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 20-24

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, celebrate, sing, and make policy through democratic process.

This year’s theme is **All Are Called**.

Housing registration is open!

Scholarships are available!

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, “How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?” The call to witness and act for justice in

our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. Together, we'll ask:

Who and how are we called to be at this time, individually and collectively?

How are we called to act and to live?

How does our Unitarian Universalist legacy strengthen us in living out our mission?

In what ways does our legacy present challenges and impediments to answering our call?



The UU Commission on Appraisal invites your participation in a brief survey to help us as we prepare to select our next study topic. The Commission serves similarly to a “think tank” on larger issues facing Unitarian Universalism. Our recent study was on class in the UUA.

We are seeking input from individual Unitarian Universalists including congregation members, ministers, religious educators, administrators, etc. In other words, all UUs are invited to share their views. When you go to this web-based survey, put in the code 1910 to begin. Use this [link](#) or go to: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdljDozBISiGLwt8VmEHQu8B32HyBwQex6OdTRkhpBlxRRBRw/viewform>

To learn more about the Commission on Appraisal, an independently elected body of our Association, go to www.uua.org and search for the Commission on Appraisal or use this link [CoA](#).

Thank you in advance for adding your voices to help us make this decision.

In Faith,

Your Commission on Appraisal



MidWest Leadership School

July 15-21

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) will be held from July 15 - 21 on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Please mark your calendars and spread the word!

There is an Adult School and a Youth School, and we are unique among UU leadership schools in that the schools are designed to do several activities together and safely interact.

MWLS creates opportunities to learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism, about yourself as an individual, and your role as a member of a congregation in a larger movement grounded in liberal theology. MWLS attendees come away from the experience with a better understanding of healthy organizational practices.

Is MWLS for you or someone you know? Anyone wishing to increase their leadership skills in a church context are encouraged to talk to us. Many incoming board members and presidents find this to be an excellent preparation for their service. Many youth enjoy being with like-minded peers, and the supportive environment enables them to help discern and activate their leadership passions.

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

**“You can dance in a hurricane,
but only if you’re...in the eye.”**

—[Brandi Carlile](#)

We were in the car when Kirk, my three-year-old son, said, “We don’t need guns in school. I know what to do—you have to hide and be quiet. That’s what Ms. Laurie says.”

I thought I misheard him. *One. Two. Three:* I waited to figure out what to say next.

At the parent-teacher conference the week prior, Kirk’s teacher Ms. Laurie told us about the active shooter drills and how they help keep the kids safe. “The kids think it’s a game,” she assured us. “They don’t understand.”

We were all wrong.

Kirk and I went that day to visit our congressional leader to talk about gun reform. Afterward, he asked for a donut. I was on full speed, but I stopped anyway. We sat in a cramped Dunkin’ Donuts while he ate his pink-frosted strawberry donut—with sprinkles, of course. We talked about his school and feeling safe. Kirk concluded, “We can make school safer. I like meeting people.”

For the past two years, life has often felt like a hurricane. I don’t know if it’s the political movement, the shattering of my privileged isolation, the acceleration of parenting, or some combination therein, but there are times when the sheer force of the winds terrify me.

I remember in the hospital after giving birth to twins, I was all adrenaline, ready to do loops in the maternity care unit. An experienced nurse approached me: “Lie down. Just for an hour.”

I don’t know if life is going to slow down. A donut in a cramped coffee shop, a cool breeze breaks loose across the march, an hour of sleep in the hospital bed. Being faithful doesn’t mean endless work. It also means attention to the movement of spirit that can appear as an hour of sleep, the truth of a toddler, or a donut in the middle of the day.



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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.