

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin

Volume 24, Number 12 — December 2016

Connections

November has come and gone, and in its wake there is tension and fear for some, and elation and righteousness for others. Many believe that freedom and democracy are deeply wounded in our nation, while many others think we've elected a savior. Regardless of our opinions, it's a reality that hate crimes have increased dramatically since the election, and that fear is palpable in many communities – for our neighbors, and for members of our own community.

I want to remind you that we know how to support each other and our wider community. We ground ourselves in our faith tradition, in worship, in conversation, in Covenant Groups, through our Caring Tree, in Religious Exploration, and in conversations with me. We've been educating ourselves about race and class. We've been providing Black Lives Matter signs and buttons so we can show our neighbors of color our support. We've been participating in community events that promote the cause of equity and justice.

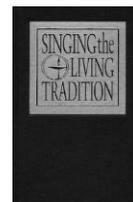
I'm offering sharing circles for the next few weeks, to give us a place to sit and breathe together, and share the stories of how we're coping with the anxieties of this time. And, as part of our wider ministry, several Reebers and I are heading to Standing Rock this weekend to answer the call to an Interfaith Day of Prayer. I hope you'll send your best wishes – and your donations – with us.

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is another way I can help Reebers and community members in need. If you're moved to donate to the Fund, please bring your checkbook to the Christmas Eve service, as that evening's offering will replenish it – or send me your donation before the end of the month.

I think the most radical and effective thing we can do to make our community safe for ourselves and our neighbors is to show up with open hearts and open minds. And I think the best way to be ready to

do that is to stay centered, and keep reaching out. When you need someone to be with, to cry with, to rage with, and to plan with – reach out to me, and to each other, and we'll do it together. And when you see that someone is in need, reach out to them. Navigating these times is going to be hard. Know that, however you're feeling, you're not alone.

In faith and love,
Karen



Holiday Hymnal Fundraiser!

It's time to order more hymnals for our Sanctuary! Please consider making a holiday gift to JRUC, in the form of a new copy of one of our hymnals – or, even better, give a set including *Singing the Living Tradition* (the gray hymnal) and *Singing the Journey* (the teal supplement).

Book plates will be placed in every hymnal you purchase for Reeb. Each copy of *Singing the Living Tradition* is \$22.40; each copy of *Singing the Journey* will cost \$14.40.

In addition, please help us order 12 copies of the Spanish language hymnal, *Las Voces del Camino*, for \$14.40 each.

Look for a donation form in your order of service on Sundays through Christmas, or visit this website:

<http://www.jruuc.org/holiday-hymnal-fundraiser>

Please bring or send your donations to Elizabeth in the JRUC office.

December 10 AM Sunday Services

December Theme: Presence

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

-- Howard Thurman

12/4 “Mindfulness”

Alice Mandt and Carin Bringelson

While it may be easy to believe that being present to joy can heighten it, it may also feel counterintuitive that being present to sorrow or pain can ease it. Join Carin and our Director of Religious Education, Alice Mandt, in an exploration of mindfulness practices and possibilities.

12/11 “It’s Complicated”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Many spiritual writings urge us toward a practice of presence. We might wonder how this can help us when we feel surrounded by anxiety, fear, or hate. This morning, we’ll explore what we might offer one another as we move through anxious times together.

12/18 “Gifts of the Dark Wood”

Chris Glad

Dante wrote "In the middle of the journey of our life I came to myself within a dark wood where the straight way was lost." Do you ever hear whispers calling you to enter the dark wood? Eric Elnes suggests that the dark wood may be a sacred place of transformation with gifts as well as risks. Today we'll explore the potential gifts that might lead us to enter willingly into the dark wood.

12/25 “Presence or Presents?”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

On Christmas morning, join us for music and readings that touch the essence of the gifts of the season.

Check-in question: What makes you come alive?



Additional December Services

Holiday Sharing Circles

Wednesdays, December 7 & 14 at 6:30

Join Rev. Karen for a time of meditation and sharing, two evenings during the winter holiday season.

We'll offer each other love and support in this anxious time.

Winter Solstice Celebration:

A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, December 17th, 5 pm

The solstice planners have been “Walking in Beauty,” forging a new path of creative and heartfelt collaboration.

Heather Yonker, Music Director, the JRUUC Choir, and Rev. Karen will present this service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24th, 5 pm

Join us for an all-ages worship focused on the story of Jesus’ birth, featuring hymns, stories, and candles. Rev. Karen will lead this special service.





BLACK LIVES of UU

Minister's Office hours for December

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

Please let me know if you're coming.

Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at Café Zoma on Atwood Ave. – stop by for a chat!

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment

Please note that Rev. Karen will be off during the week between Christmas and New Year's, returning to the office on Wednesday, January 4. There will be no held office hours on December 28 and 29.

As always, please set up an appointment if you'd like to meet with her outside of office hours, and please call or text if you have a pastoral emergency.



Adult Religious Exploration

Saturday, December 3rd 9 - 11 am

Facilitators Brandi Grayson (of the Young, Gifted, and Black Coalition), Karen Reece (of Justified Anger), and Laura McNeill (of Groundwork) will return to JRUUC to guide us in an exploration of the US slave era. Come ready to learn together, and be moved!

Chalice Lighter Fall Call for Donations

You may recall that JRUUC received a generous grant from this program, facilitated by our MidAmerica Region, to support our growing staff needs. Usually, the Grant Committee has to decide among congregations who have applied for grants, but something unusual has happened this call cycle: no congregations have applied! So the Committee has decided to apply funds from the Fall 2016 Call to help congregations in supporting **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)**. The URL is: <http://www.blacklivesuu.com/>. BLUU provides information, resources, and support for Black Unitarian Universalists, and works to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith.

This is a great opportunity to support our Black UU siblings! Please follow this link for more information on Chalice Lighters and BLUU, and give as generously as you are able: <https://www.midamericauua.org/programs/chalice-lighters>.

The deadline for donations is December 15.



Financial Update

	October 2016	Year to Date
Income	\$12,402	\$58,075
Expenses	\$14,232	\$58,122

Our congregation's expenses were higher than income for the month of October, giving us a negative monthly cash flow. The good news is our total fiscal year expenses are only slightly higher than our total yearly income so far. A very successful Reeb Rave will help shift the balance—big thanks to all who participated!

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

Holiday Bake & Craft Sale

Sunday, December 18th

Before and after the worship service! The items for this sale are all donated and the proceeds go to JRUUC.

We could use more donations of crafts and baked items.

Questions? Contact Cindy Rudd at 608-469-5269.

President's Column

A question I've been pondering recently is how I can make productive use of my anger and grief both personally and in my work for JRUUC. Can the Board of Trustees turn our collective frustration towards positive action in the domains that we have influence over? Anger, after all, can be a powerful motivator.

Our JRUUC mission include an exhortation to "Encourage social action in the name of liberty and justice." While that social action is more urgent than ever, mere "encouragement" also feels hopelessly inadequate in the face of President-Elect Donald Trump's speech inflaming hatred and inciting violence. But we are the lighters of the chalice and the keepers of the flame.

Unitarian Universalists are expert self-inflamers and inciters! Every week we are inflamed with passion and love and grief and anger in our beloved community. In every committee meeting and worship service we incite each other towards justice. We spent a lot of time at our November board meeting sharing our grief with each other, and I'm sure the same happened in dozens of meetings in the past few weeks. To quote a country song, we don't have to be "ready to make nice," but we can use our anger and grief to allow our collective flame to burn brighter than ever.

Charlie McNulty, Board President



Children's Religious Education

December is a busy month for Religious Education at JRUUC!

I am excited for all of the upcoming events and activities! We will start the month with a multigenerational service December 4th. Additionally, this month we will be distributing Guest at Your Table Boxes. Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports UUSC's human rights work. This year's Guest at Your Table highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced peoples. Pick up your box Sunday!

We will continue to have regular RE classes for December 11th and 18th and have the children all together on December 25th to do a service activity to celebrate the holiday.

As we near the end of the year, the RE Committee and I are looking for teachers and assistants for the spring semester. We are moving towards having the children's RE match the adult service. This means you will be on the same page as the children in the congregation. Our hope is that this fosters more multigenerational communication and allows parents to engage their children on these themes in a meaningful way. With this new concentration on themes, we are also changing how we are doing the teacher scheduling. Ideally from a consistency standpoint for our children we will have someone sign up for a theme. The themes run for an average of three Sundays. However, we do understand that a commitment of three weeks in a row might be difficult for some and will not work for everyone.

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

If you have any questions please contact me at re@jruuc.org – Alice Mandt, Director of RE



SAVE THE DATE!

Appreciation Reception for
Fair Share Givers

Friday, February 17, 2017 at 7 pm
See more information on page 7
in the "Stewardship Stirrings" article

Music Matters



Let me sing praises for the awesome collaboration and presence of members of the FUS Meeting House Chorus and the JRUUC Choir in November!

What remains to be said about Presence? To come up with an original thought that would have the power to illuminate your being is perhaps too high of an ideal today. I can only invite you to return to that place that only you can know for yourself. “Find a Stillness.” Make room for it. Unpack it. Let it out of the box. Mostly, do not try to replace or substitute it with busyness, nor that long list of “good deeds” that you really “should be” doing.

To quote from Eric Elnes in his book, *Gifts of the Dark Woods*:

“If you are feeling far from your path, chances are that you have succumbed to the temptation of doing good somewhere along the way. Doing good is not the problem. Doing the wrong good, is entirely the problem. Doing good work that is not yours to do.”

“Dark of Winter” is drawing nigh, and we are preparing for our Solstice Celebration. You will not want to miss this special event on December 17th at 5pm. Mark your calendars! We begin with “**A Call to Silence**,” and invite you to take “**A Walk in the Woods**,” “Out Beyond” the beaten path, exploring the uncertainty of darkness and the unexpected gifts that one might find on their journey towards light.

The solstice planners have been “Walking in Beauty” together, forging a new path of creative and heartfelt collaboration. Their personal journeys and contributions will make this year’s ritual unique and poignant.

“Keep Your Lamps” trimmed and burning, until we meet again.

Heather Yonker, Music Director

New Members

We had five new members join the congregation this fall: Sabe Jones, Byran Benwitz, Pete Haney, Ian Cordasco, and Cea Stapleton. We welcome them all to the congregation. To help us get to know each other better we asked them 1) What brought you to Reeb? 2) What are your interests? Here are a couple of their responses:



Bryan Benwitz

My father attends a UU congregation in Europe and encouraged me to check it out here where I live. My sister is also a past member at Reeb. I’m a major Scrabble player, one of the top players in Wisconsin. I’ve played in about 15 local tournaments and attend Madison Scrabble Club every week. Otherwise I like Ultimate Frisbee in the park.



Pete Haney

I grew up in a strongly anti-religious household, the son of a lapsed Catholic and a lapsed Jehovah's Witness. I am a cultural anthropologist and have studied Mexican American history and culture and worked extensively with immigrant rights and labor organizations for the last 26 years. In June of this year, the State of Kansas's budget axe fell on me, and I lost my position as Assistant Director in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

I decided to move to Madison to live with Amihan Huesmann, who became my partner in life after I lost my wife, Laura Padilla, to breast cancer in 2014. I came to Reeb for important theological reasons: it was right down the street from my house! Plus I have friends in the congregation.

I am passionate about music and have recently taken on the Tuesday 5-8 am classical show on WORT. So send me info about musical events you are involved with and check out the show either live or any time on the Web. I thank the Reeb community for being a supportive place to land as I figure out the next steps in my life.

Justice at JRUUC



Updates from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES – an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state. From numerous angles we are working to decrease the Wisconsin prison population – and advocate for other change in Wisconsin, too.

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

December 3rd at First Unitarian Society,
900 University Bay Drive

January 7th at Lake Edge Lutheran Church,
4032 Monona Drive

Also, please save the date of **Thursday, March 30, 2017** for the Madison Action Day. Members and friends of WISDOM congregations from across the state (including JRUUC) will come to Madison for a day of inspiration, education and action. It will start at Bethel Lutheran. The cost is \$25 per person, with scholarships available.

If you have questions (or want to get a ROC Wisconsin Prayer Card) contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com or visit <http://www.rocwisconsin.org/> or <http://mosesmadison.org>.

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

We meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm December 13th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Jail Ministry Winter Clothing Drive

From January 7 to February 11, 2017, our congregation will host a winter clothing drive for the Madison Jail Ministry. The jail ministry is requesting donations of warm clothing all through the winter because those incarcerated during the summer months are often released in the winter without appropriate outerwear.

You can help by donating winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves. Men's sizes and large sizes are especially needed. A donation box will be available at James Reeb beginning Sunday January 7th.

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



Save the Date for 30 Days of Love

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



From the Office

My goodness, it has been extra busy around here ever since November 9th, the day after the election. So many people are overflowing with emotions, including me. UU congregations have been welcoming more visitors this past month, with JRUUC being no exception. We can expect this to continue, as we know that many people come to church when they're in transition or in crisis. Right now, we're all struggling with both. I'm attempting to be my best self while staying alert to everything happening around me and practicing kindness and inclusion.

What makes me come alive? Being with other Unitarian Universalists energizes me and gives me hope that we can still make the world a better place. I keep reminding myself of two quotes – “Justice is what love looks like in public,” from Dr. Cornel West and “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” from the Rev. Dr. King.

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



Stewardship Stirrings

Thank you corner: Farmer's Market Food Pickup

Every month the Stewardship Team thanks volunteers who help make our various programs run smoothly when they donate their time and talent. This month, we are highlighting our Food Justice via the Dane County Farmer's Market.

Every summer the Community Action Coalition assigns JRUUC three Saturdays when 8-10 volunteers collect around eight cartloads of extra produce from the generous vendors at

the Dane County Farmers' Market. The food goes to the local food pantries. Great big thanks to the Food Justice coordinator Jocie Luglio. Folks who volunteered during the 2016 season include:

Amanda Werhane
Benny Luglio
Carin Bringelson
Catherine Quinlan
Colleen O'Hara
Craig McComb
Dan Reain
Ellie Dillenburg
Janice Knapp-Cordes
Joan Kemble
Jocie Luglio
Karen Quinlan
Kim Reain
Leila Pine
Martin Knapp-Cordes
Mary Schaper
Megan Barry-Luglio
Peggy Haack
Quinn Reain
Virginia Harrison
and a few of Jocie's friends

Thanks to the Fair Share Givers!

Fair Share Givers are those JRUUC members & friends who pledge to donate 2-10% of their income to the congregation. See the guide at: http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/fair_share_contribution_guide.pdf Using this Fair Share Giving Guide allows people to give according to their means and commitment. This is a more equitable system than, for example, a fixed dues system where all members pay the same level, regardless of their financial situation.

Do you consider yourself a Fair Share Giver? If so, please come to an **Appreciation Reception Friday, February 17, 2017, 7 to 8:30 pm** at First Unitarian Society (900 University Bay Drive). We want to celebrate your generosity!

We celebrate Fair Share Giving because pledges make up over 80% of the income in our operating budget. We heavily depend upon congregants to support JRUUC at a level that is commensurate with their ability — and Fair Share Givers do exactly that! Learn more about the Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide by visiting this website: <http://www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/budget/151840.shtml>



Camp UniStar is hiring!

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

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

Training and camp season is June 5 to Sept. 2, with some personalization of schedules possible. Starting salary for first year general camp staff is \$270 per week, room and board included.

Application and position details at: www.CampUniStar.org. Please contact 612-354-6566 or jobs@campunistar.org with any questions. Applications due January 31, 2017



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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.

Winter WomanSpirit

February 3-5, 2017

**JUST WOMEN:
JUST WORLD**

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

158 N 4th St, DeKalb, IL 60115

For more information, visit:

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