

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 26, Number 11 — November 2017

November Theme: What does it mean to be a people of abundance?

"When we see that our days are replete with abundance, we are less afraid. When we are less afraid, we connect more. The more connections we see in our lives, the more abundance we notice."
-- Rev. Deanna Vandiver

Connections

Abundance is a counter-cultural idea. No matter how convinced I am that I have enough, something out in the world tells me this is untrue – that I must have some piece of clothing or a hairstyle or makeup to be worthy of attention and affection, that I must have the latest version of that cell phone to be able to communicate effectively, that I must own the latest fitness gadget or yoga accessory to do that practice right. And no matter how sure I am that I am enough, something happens every day that makes me feel small and scared and unable to respond in a way I believe to be adequate.

I am learning to think of abundance in a more communal way. Maybe I can be convinced that I don't have enough stuff, or the right stuff, but when I'm around other people who hold gratitude for what we do have, I feel less pressure to conform to that message. Maybe I can be convinced that I cannot make the change we need in this world, but when I'm around others committed to the work, I find an abundance of courage, hope, and inspiration welling up in me, and I am moved to act.

Here, at JRUUC, we create a culture of abundance. We value our beautiful worship space, but what we value most about it is the loving energy of our friends and members who worked so hard to create it. We share our resources – the time, talent, and treasure that we offer in abundance is vital to the co-creation and thriving of our beloved community. And in the tradition of our Universalist heritage, we offer a huge abundance of our love and energy to our community and our work toward a more just world.

We have enough, my friends, and we are enough.

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- 11/5 "Choosing Abundance"**
The Rev. Karen Armina
Appreciation – noticing with gratitude – can lead to awareness of abundance, but just noticing the bounty around us isn't enough to feel its fullness. In this morning's multigenerational service, we'll explore how gratitude calls us to change how we move through the world, to choose to live in abundance.
- 11/12 "What Is Enough?"**
Kim Reain and Brian McNurlen
Join our Stewardship Team as we explore our attitudes and feelings around abundance and scarcity. When did you last feel like you had enough? What about when you didn't have enough?
- 11/19 "Love Is Not a Pie"**
The Rev. Karen Armina
Love has been compared to a circle that widens as more and more people are included. Today we'll commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance, and explore abundance in our relationships.
- 11/26 "Hungry Ghosts"**
The Rev. Karen Armina
We often hear the message that we are never enough, and that we never have enough. On this Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, as our culture shifts into a more overt consumerism, we'll explore the relationship between abundance and attachment.

Check-in question: Of what do you have an abundance?



Minister's Availability and Office Hours in November

Rev. Karen will be out of town for a ministers' study group starting after worship on Sunday, November 5th, through Thursday, November 9th. She can be reached via email, call, or text during this time. She will then be off from Friday, November 10th until Tuesday, November 14th, as she moves to a new apartment. She asks that you contact her for emergencies only during this time, via call or text.

Except for that week, Rev. Karen is in the office on Wednesdays between noon and 2:00. She can also be found at Café Zoma on Thursdays between 1:00 and 3:00. 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!

Wednesday Evening Vespers

There will be no vespers service this month.

Financial Update

We built a large deficit into the budget adopted at the May meeting. Fortunately, the deficit has been substantially reduced by very generous additional pledges totaling \$6,763 and by re-financing our mortgage. We signed a new loan agreement with Park Bank lowering our interest rate from 5.5% to 4.34% and extending the length of the loan to 25 years, so that the payment drops \$3,052 for the year.

Our financial outlook now projects a shortfall of about \$5,800, which we can cover by our cash reserve. I'm sure that we all want Reeb to be able to live within its means, while stretching ourselves to contribute as much as we can to make our world better.

John Mathis, Treasurer

Justice at JRUUC



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity

JRUUC is a congregational member of Moses (see <http://mosesmadison.org>) – an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state as part of WISDOM (see: <http://wisdomwisconsin.org>).

Upcoming events to attend

MOSES Monthly Meeting Saturday, November 4th, 9:30 am to noon at Midvale Community Lutheran Church (4329 Tokay Blvd, Madison)

MOSES Justice System Reform Initiative Thursday, November 9th, 6:30 - 8 pm at Madison Police Station South District (825 Hughes Place)

MOSES Annual Banquet will be Saturday, December 9th, 5:30 - 8:30 PM at Christ Presbyterian Church (944 E. Gorham Street, Madison)

More information about events can be found at <http://mosesmadison.org/events/>

Learn more about the issues by listening in on the monthly WISDOM conference calls. Simply call 605-468-8012, then use the proper code:

Old Law Task Force Second Saturday, 8:30 - 9:30 am. Code 423950.

Solitary Confinement Task Force Second Tuesday, 4 – 5 pm. Code 423950.

Prison Prevention Task Force Second Tuesday, 5 – 6 pm. Code 423950.

Post-release Task Force Fourth Thursday, 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Code 423951

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, November 13th. All are welcome to participate the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email Barbara Whitney at salbwhitney@gmail.com. Please note Barb's new email address.

Sustainable Saturday Night
The 4th Saturday each month
January through November
November 25th

Potluck at 6 pm. No formal program, but we will celebrate our five years of building sustainable community. SSN will celebrate our gratitude for our beloved community coming together every month (except in December) for five full years. Join us for a potluck meal, the regular **Sustainability Open Mic**, and time to share gratitude and stories about our lives in these challenging times. As this is a weekend that many will be traveling, our numbers to be small. If ever you wanted to help make sure that this monthly project got the support that it deserves, this would be a good month to offer it up. If you are able to help November 25th, please contact Tim at time@fusmadison.org.



Lockers for Homeless Young People

The Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group has recommended that JRUUC install six lockers in the back parking lot. These lockers are sponsored by the State Street Family organization. We are an excellent location for East High School students who are homeless.

We have checked with the adjacent neighbors, who have no objection. We are upgrading the lights in our lot and Dane County has allocated money for the lockers. **Now we need to hear from you** – there will be a discussion following the service Sunday, November 12th.

Joan Kemble, for the PJS



Nominations Needed for Share the Plate

Every Sunday, we split our offertory (cash & undesignated checks) 50/50 with a worthy organization.

Do you have a local non-profit organization that you work with or respect? Any JRUUC member, friend, or team is welcome to nominate any group that supports our UU principles/ purposes.

Paper nomination forms can be found in a box in the foyer, or complete the form online:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGb77jjpbziKSaSMXVDPNkdNapidc56kgeazvaMQcveegmsQ/viewform>

Share the Plate Totals
July to October

Thanks to this congregation's generosity, we have been able to send donations to the following organizations:

100 Black Men of Madison	\$140.00
Centro Hispano	\$191.00
OutReach	\$144.25
Horner Memorial Stand Down	\$226.00
UUA Disaster Relief Fund	\$219.12
MOSES Yearbook	\$203.63
Healthy Food For All	\$178.83
Safe Haven	\$236.10

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:
November 20th – only one right way;
paternalism

December 18th – sense of urgency
January 29th – quantity over quality;
worship of the written word

February 19th – individualism;
I'm the only one

March 19th – objectivity
April 16th – power hoarding;
fear of open conflict

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

May 21st – final reflections



Time To Find Your Space Suit! Reeb Rave Annual Auction Fundraiser "Outer Space" is on the horizon, Saturday November 18th, 5 - 8:30 pm

Bring your family and friends and enjoy music, dinner, live and silent auctions, and "out of this world" fun. Come as your favorite space character, human or alien, and participate in the costume contest!

Donations are the key to making this year's event an amazing success. Auction ideas include donating services (your skills, excursions, parties, etc.), art, handmade items, homemade specialty food items, one-of-a-kind items or things that spark joy! Use your imagination – the sky's the limit. We especially need some big ticket items, like a weekend vacation at your cabin, bicycles, boats or spaceships.

You may submit your donations online at www.jruuc.org/reeb-rave-donation-form. We have an online viewing catalog so you can preview all the wonderful auction items available from the JRUUC website. The 2016 catalog is on our website if you want ideas for donations. Please submit a picture if you can with your donation! You may also complete a paper donation form (in the foyer at JRUUC), or e-mail Tom McClintock.

We also still need volunteers to help with food, decorations, music, business donations, and child care. Please contact Tom at tlmcclin@wisc.edu or 608-206-1699.

Thanks and see you at the party,
Tom McClintock - Reeb Rave Chair



We offer a wide range of fair trade gifts for your friends and family this holiday season. We have many new books such as *Living Revision: A Writer's Craft as Spiritual Practice* and Mary Oliver's new book of poems, as well as beautiful and ethically made cards to send messages of peace and joy. Visit <http://www.uuabookstore.org>



... fall into music at JRUC

Consider visiting a choir rehearsal this month, offering a solo on your instrument or signing up to sing in the Winter Solstice Program this year. We meet Thursdays at 6:45pm in the sanctuary. This is a friendly, dedicated group, no matter your skill level. Contact Heather Yonker, music director: music@jruc.org
October services offered an abundance of excellent music that I hope you were able to hear and enjoy! Thank you choir for your dedication! The choir will open November services with Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth," as well as introduce the hymn of the month, #317 We Are Not Our Own. Here are the lyrics so that you can get started!

*We are not our own, Earth forms us.
Human leaves on nature's growing vine.
Fruit of many generations,
Seeds of life, divine.*

I have been reading Kabir lately! And I am also providing below, an excerpt from our Soul Matters collection on this month's theme of Abundance.

When the Day -Kabir
<http://www.poetseers.org/the-poetseers/kabir/kabir-index/when-the-day-came/index.html>

When the Day came –
The Day I had lived and died for –
The Day that is not in any calendar –
Clouds heavy with love
Showered me with wild abundance.
Inside me, my soul was drenched.
Around me, even the desert grew green.



In grace and gratitude,
Heather Yonker



From the Office

November – such a great time to choose abundance as our theme. Each fall, I find all my winter gear and take stock. As the weather turns colder, I revel in flannel sheets, flannel blankets, and flannel pajamas. I'm delighted with all my warm clothing – silk long janes, merino wool socks, scarves, many, many sweaters, and a parka. I even have two cashmere cardigans, one without any holes in it. ☺

Last week when pulling out all my winter shoes and boots, I discovered a great pair of black lace-up shoes with thick rubber soles and steel toes. My goodness – been wanting shoes like these for at least five years! They look new, so I must have bought them at the end of last winter. Having a bad memory is great sometimes.

My 101-year-old house has a 2010 boiler and windows in addition to the original (and fabulous) hot water radiators, so it is easy to keep warm. And, I recently purchased a soy candle that smells like a fir tree. Lighting my fir candle, reading a good library book while stretched out on a sofa, having a cat on my lap, and knowing that it is too cold for weeds to grow, all make for a life of abundance. May you enjoy the same this month.

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



Adjusting to new ringtones

Being responsive to shifts and changes—
in justice work and beyond—
is hard and crucial for
Unitarian Universalists.

[Jane Ranney Rzepka](#) October 23, 2017

I keep the ringer on, so in the grocery store I'll hear my cell phone. At least, it sounds like my phone. As I begin to root around in my bag, I notice four or five other shoppers on high alert, locating their own phones. We've all taken the easy way out, opting to settle for the phone's default ring tone.

So impulsively, standing in place, I change all the sounds my phone makes. No trumpet fanfares, mind you, or ducks quacking or chortling babies, and definitely not the sound of a toilet flushing. Just some modest twinkles, birdsong chirps, and chimes to alert me to texts, AirDrops, reminders, and all that. For the main ringtone I click on "classic," the familiar sound of an old-fashioned landline. An actual *ring*. I didn't give my new adjustments another thought.

Oddly, over the next few days I didn't seem to receive any texts or calls. As I moved along the sidewalk, I thought I heard the faint sound of old-fashioned phones ringing in nearby offices, birdsong chirps overhead, and chimes, but nothing that announced to my brain, "Jane! It's your phone!" I had not overhauled my own responses, so I missed all my calls.

A trivial example, to be sure, but changing our responses is, for most of us, a big project. **Within Unitarian Universalism, some of us have changed our response to the term "white supremacy" from "nothing to do with me" to "I have to look at this and take action."** Along with composer Jason Shelton, those of us who were not awake to the exclusionary, ableist aspect of his hymn's title/lyric "Standing on the Side of Love,"

are modifying our response from "Count me in" to "Let's sing 'Answering the Call of Love.'"

Once upon a time, when we Unitarian Universalists added a Source to our bylaws that began, "Words and deeds of prophetic women and men," we applauded the novelty of naming women before men. But our reaction is different today. "Words and deeds of prophetic people" is more inclusive of all genders.

And these are only examples from our little pond!

The world arena and our nation's political situation offer opportunities to alter our responses every single day. No more complacency.

What we used to trust we trust no longer; offices we used to respect we respect no longer; trajectories toward the good we assume no longer. These days there's not much we can take for granted, and for hope we have to dig deep.

The need to change my responses can feel overwhelming—maybe that's your feeling too. So much of it is just keeping up, necessary, but not important. We change from reaching for a folded map to depending on our GPS. When the house gets cold, I boost the heat with my phone, not the thermostat that's still on the wall. And I'm still adjusting to those new ringtones.

To be sure, the little changes snap at our heels. But especially in these times we need to focus on what really matters. It demands our unwavering attention to respond according to our Unitarian Universalist values in new and more powerful ways. Our values are clearly threatened. Equality. A green Earth. Justice. Peace. Democracy. Compassion. And all the rest. Clear, changed responses: therein lies our hope

The Rev. Dr. Jane Rzepka served as senior minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship from 1999 to 2010. She is the author of *A Small Heaven: Meditations* and co-author of *Thematic Preaching: An Introduction*. Her latest book is *From Zip Lines to Hosaphones: Dispatches from the Search for Truth and Meaning* (Skinner House, 2011).



Susan Frederick-Gray and Carey MacDonald



Taquiena Boston

UUA Staffing Changes to Support Racial Equity and Public Witness Work

October 21, 2017

Unitarian Universalist Association President the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray shared the following update on staffing changes at the UUA:

It's my pleasure to share some exciting updates about new leadership for two of the most urgent areas of our faithful work: 1) countering white supremacy and advancing racial equity, and 2) public witness, organizing and activism.

Effective November 1, 2017, I am appointing Taquiena Boston, Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness, to the additional role of Special Advisor to the President for Inclusion, Equity and Change. She will work closely with me, with other Leadership Council members, and with all UUA staff to develop and oversee internal organizational changes to ensure that the UUA embodies multicultural inclusion, equity, and justice-centered relationships at all levels of staffing. This change provides executive leadership for the ongoing internal dialogue of how to decenter white

supremacist culture and expectations within the UUA staff, a key priority of the first year of my presidency. As Special Advisor, she will address definitions and goals for organizational and cultural change, support the development of staff group and cross-staff learning plans and opportunities, and integrate wisdom from sources and organizations beyond the UUA. Taquiena will continue as the Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness (MGW) and a member of Leadership Council, and will retain direct oversight of the multicultural growth and leadership aspects of MGW's work, including Mosaic Makers, Finding Our Way Home, Welcoming Congregations and more.

Concurrently, I am charging Acting Chief Operations Officer Carey McDonald with the oversight and direction of MGW's congregational organizing and witness work for the time being, including Standing on the Side of Love and Love Resists. This will allow Carey to lead a review of the UUA staff's public witness process over the coming months and make recommendations about our structures for advancing public witness priorities. The voice of the UUA is a critical way in which we carry our values into the world, and we need to update our strategies and processes to focus our impact in a world of 24/7 social media and weekly stories of oppression and violence across the country and the world. Also, note that collaboration with the Commission on Institutional Change and revisions to our hiring policies will continue under Carey's coordination.

I want to raise up that these appointments are shifting work in a new way to invest more resources in our mission-based priorities. Rather than responding to organizational needs by simply creating a different set of silos, we are emphasizing cross-staff collaboration and valuing our staff's individual gifts. These changes to Carey and Taquiena's portfolios do not alter staff groups, formal supervision or organizational structure; instead, they give space and authorization for critical planning over the coming months that will be a foundation for the future structures and priorities at the UUA.

Please join me in appreciating Taquiena Boston and Carey McDonald and the entire Multicultural Growth and Witness staff!

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/>

If you plan to attend and could carpool, please let Elizabeth Barrett know. Thank you!



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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.