

# EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 27, Number 7 — July 2018

“Insight without challenge satisfies curiosity, but not a lot more than that.” -- Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

## Connections

I hover between the energizing and motivating experience of our annual General Assembly, and a month of much-needed rest, reading, and reflection. The culture-shifting work we’ve been doing at JRUUC is happening throughout our denomination, and I feel both hopeful and tired.

For several years now, there have been changes in the structure and processes of GA that result from working to dismantle our white supremacy culture. The general sessions, in which our delegates vote on various resolutions and changes, have become more inclusive, with times for small group conversations on the issues, and changes in language that promote a less combative feel. Discussion used to be called “debate,” for example, and the “CON” microphone used to be the place to go to oppose something. This year, we were asked to consider “CON” as standing for “concern.”

The co-moderators Elandria Williams, a Black woman, and Mr. Barb Grieve, a trans man, bring perspectives never before seen in that role. Voices of people of color were centered in worship and workshops, and more people of color were in attendance. All these shifts require those of us who are white to sit with some discomfort as our voices are decentered. We – I – am having to remember that my voice matters but not to the exclusion of other voices, as has been our painful history, and that the deliberate lifting of those other voices means that, at some point, I’m going to feel left out. This is both hopeful and hard.

So I will take a break – I will rest, reflect, and read. And then I will plan – for worship that inspires and holds us as we do the work while still wrestling with all that’s happening in our personal lives – for covenant groups that help us practice listening each other into being – for religious exploration that helps us learn and articulate why we build

communities of love and justice – for ways to keep taking care of each other as we navigate the hope and exhaustion of siding with love. See you in August!

In faith and love, Karen

## 10 AM Sunday Services

- 7/1 “Gathered Here”**  
**The Rev. Karen Armina, Alice Mandt, and Bev Buhr**  
This year’s UUA General Assembly was a celebration of our shared faith and a call for all of us to stay -- those who have been marginalized, those who have been centered, and those in between.
- 7/8 “Hymn Sing”**  
**Heather Yonker, Music Director and Rachel Avery**  
Join Heather and Rachel for a hymn sing and celebration of music. If you would like to suggest a favorite hymn we haven’t sung in a while, please contact Heather.
- 7/15 “I Was Here”**  
**Jocie Luglio and Charlie McNulty**  
Reflections on showing up and saying “Yes” to leadership. How do we find the spiritual in agenda making, budget drafting, and fixing leaky pipes?
- 7/22 “Welcoming the Stranger in the City of Madison”**  
**Gloria Reyes**  
Gloria is currently Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Community Services of the City of Madison. In addition, she was recently elected to the Board of the Madison Metropolitan School District.

**7/29 “Witnessing the Work of the Spirit”**

**Laura Jasiczek**

Come explore the humbling experience of learning to let go.

**Minister’s Availability in July**

Rev. Karen will be on vacation and study leave through the month of July, and will be available for pastoral care emergencies only. Please call or text her if an emergency arises for you. She will be back in the office on August 8.

**President’s Column**

Hello Members and Friends of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation!

As the calendar clips past another month and into July, I officially put on my Board President hat. Giving a huge amount of gratitude to Charlie McNulty and Jan Gordon who have ended their terms on the Board Of Trustees (BOT).

I am excited for this new board year as I feel supported by all of you. This year’s outstanding BOT members are: President Jocie Luglio (me), Treasurer John Mathis, Secretary Thomas Lund, President-Elect TBD, At-Large: Sarah Hallas, Jean Skinner, and Beth Esser.

**As the church year begins I have these song lyrics stuck in my head: “Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?”**

We are celebrating where we come from. It is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it has been wonderful to look back. Our roots inform our current planning. What are we? We are a strong congregation, a beloved community. We say “Yes” to social justice work and “Yes” to supporting each other. Where are we going? We will be revisiting our mission statement this year, examining our social justice work, and looking for innovative budget solutions so we can financially support our Minister and ministries as they support us.

Here we go!  
Peace, Jocie  
President of the BOT



Marge Moffet, Sarah Cook, Carol Hawley and Rev. Darrel Richey prepare to move the joys and sorrows bowl from the sanctuary to the multipurpose room during the time of “REEB-modeling.”

**25 Years: the story continues...**

**2008: JRUC held a successful capital campaign. Then the exciting “REEB-modeling’ began!**

Our first step was a special service in which we moved our worship space from the sanctuary to what is now the multipurpose room. During the following months we used sledgehammers, crowbars, strong backs, and willing hands to transform our space.

This summer we hope you will enjoy exploring photo boards of the reconstruction. You’ll see many familiar faces, lots of smiles, and busy Saturday volunteers hard at work. They greatly appreciated the delicious lunch breaks provided by members. Everyone found opportunities to pitch in and help.

Do you remember the story shared by Larry Orr this spring about Ed Kuharski’s jacket? We have the photo!

If you have photos of our community to share please contact Colleen O’Hara: [ohara1945@gmail.com](mailto:ohara1945@gmail.com). To read more of our history or view the timeline visit [jruc.org/history](http://jruc.org/history).

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



## Financial Update

	May 2018	Fiscal Year to Date
<b>Income (net)</b>	\$16,337	\$175,630
<b>Expenses</b>	\$14,773	\$174,600

Income for the May Treasurer's Report is listed as "net" because we brought in \$21,537 due to the April and May electronic pledges both occurring in May. Also, we sent a check for \$5,200 to the UU Endowment Fund, donations we received in April.

I still cannot project a good number for our fiscal performance for 2017-18. There are several committees that have not yet spent their budgets. I am surely not going to urge them to be frugal just to save money. I think that our deficit will be perhaps \$6,000, but we will have greatly sufficient cash (about \$45,000) to cover the shortfall. The Board of Trustees is well aware that within a few years we must have balanced or surplus budgets, but for now we should pay for what we truly need, providing fair pay for our staff and contributions to the causes we esteem.

One special obligation is our Sabbatical Fund, with \$500 allotted this year. This fund is not to pay Rev. Karen during her sabbatical (study) time; rather, her contract guarantees her regular compensation then. Instead, the Sabbatical Fund will allow us to pay for the functions she usually provides, such as services conducted by guest ministers. We will also rely much more heavily on the congregation to stimulate our thoughts and actions.

Best wishes,  
John Mathis, Treasurer

*[If you have receipts for items you bought for JRUUC but you have not yet been reimbursed, please complete an Expense Voucher, staple your receipt(s) to it, have it signed by your committee chair or equivalent, and put it in my mailbox in the office. I need these before July 31. Elizabeth Barrett, Congregational Administrator and newsletter editor.]*

## Membership



**What's Summer without a little baseball? Mark your calendar for an evening at the Duck Pond! Thursday, August 2 at 7:05 pm** James Reeb UU Members, Friends, and Families have seats reserved at the Duck Pond to watch the Mallards play! For just \$10 you'll get a game, a FREE mallard's cap, and the chance to cheer on the home team with some of the best folks around! Put it on your calendar today, and watch for a sign-up sheet and collection as the date approaches. Or get your tickets online by following these steps:



1. Go to <http://www.Mallardsbaseball.com>
2. Click Buy Tickets on right side of the screen
3. In Promotions Box on the right side of the screen, enter Promo Code: JRUU
4. Choose your preferred seats on the Map
5. Click Buy Tickets – online tickets are \$11.50 each

Don't miss out on this (almost) annual event brought to you by your Membership Committee.

PS: We have a fall camp-out scheduled October 6-7 at Lake Farm Park... more on that later!

## Librarians Needed!

### **Elsbeth Thexton Eric Library**

Our JRUUC library is in need of some organization and care. We have lots of resources on a wide range of topics: Unitarian Universalism and other world religions, theology and spiritual practice, race studies and queer studies and gender studies, societal issues, parenting, education, works for children, and more. We'd like a couple of book-loving humans to take charge of sorting them and making them more visible and available to our congregation. Please contact Rev. Karen if you're interested in this: [revkaren@jruuc.org](mailto:revkaren@jruuc.org).

## Justice at JRUUC

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

This month, our meeting will be Monday, July 9. All are welcome to participate the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email Barbara Whitney at [salbwhitney@gmail.com](mailto:salbwhitney@gmail.com).



### **Everyone deserves healthy food!**

**Sign up now for August 25 11:45 am to 1 pm**

The Community Action Coalition of WI believes “no good source of food should go to waste, and no person should go hungry tonight.” Since its inception in 1992, CAC Gleaners, originally known as Wisconsin Harvest, has safely recovered perfectly good food from grocers, restaurants, bakeries, and caterers. This food would have otherwise gone to waste in landfills. CAC Gleaners distributes collected food to people in need through shelters, community centers, food pantries, senior centers, soup kitchens, and low-income apartment complexes at no cost. CAC Gleaners distributes over 1 million pounds of use-able food annually that otherwise would have been thrown away to approximately 100 distribution sites throughout our area.

For many years, JRUUC has participated in the Community Action Coalition's Farmers Market Collection at the Saturday Dane County Farmers Market on the capitol square. We meet at noon at the white CAC truck on the East Washington side of the capitol building, and collect left-over food or plants for about 60-90 minutes. The food is then distributed to local food pantries and shelters for meals. It is rewarding and fun! We need 8-12 people each Saturday; friends and kids are all welcome to help.

**Sign up online: CAC Doodle Poll**

<https://doodle.com/poll/c4yt8iby3s9qebw6>

or contact Jocie Luglio at [jocie.jruuc@gmail.com](mailto:jocie.jruuc@gmail.com).

## **Sustainable Saturday Night**

**July 28 this month**

SSN happens the Fourth Saturday, January through November right in our Sanctuary. Gather at 5:30, Potluck at 6, Program at 7. No details were available at press time. Please check with Pete Haney for details: [phaneyster@gmail.com](mailto:phaneyster@gmail.com).



### **Share the Plate 2017-18**

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Black Lives of UU	\$115.38
100 Black Men of Madison	\$140.00
Centro Hispano	\$191.00
OutReach LGBT	\$144.25
Horner Memorial Stand Down	\$226.00
Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund	\$219.12
MOSES Yearbook	\$203.63
Healthy Food For All	\$178.83
Safe Haven	\$236.10
GCC Thanksgiving Baskets	\$226.15
Operation Welcome Home	\$294.00
Santas Without Chimneys	\$176.40
MUM Just Bakery	\$160.00
Social Justice Center	\$219.50
The Promise and the Practice	\$340.00
UU Prison Ministry	\$203.00
East High Gender Equity Club	\$170.00
Veterans for Peace, Madison	\$192.00
Dane Sanctuary Coalition	\$164.50
Free the 350 Bail Fund	\$385.00
The River Food Pantry	\$237.50
QuARE Endowment Fund	\$187.63
Safe Haven	\$166.50
Catfish River 4H	\$247.45
OutReach LGBT	\$148.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$5,023.94</b>



## Administrator's Thoughts

Wow! Administrators' Professional Days and General Assembly 2018, both held in Kansas City had a theme running throughout – **All Are Called**. To me it means that we are called to take our liberal religious faith more seriously, live it every day, and use our calling to help ourselves, our faith communities, and general society be accountable to justice and equity for all people. The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President, is fond of saying, “this is no time for a casual faith.” It is time to be passionate and strong in our Unitarian Universalist actions and prove that justice is what love looks like in public, as Dr. Cornel West said.

Preparing to dismantle white supremacy culture is demanding, yes. Knowing the characteristics of WSC, I enjoyed watching people employ the antidotes throughout the week, especially co-moderator Elandria Williams, who was raised Unitarian Universalist.



Ms. Williams' ability to explain difficult concepts, listen with empathy, share leadership, embody love, and patiently keep two thousand people engaged in a meeting was amazing to behold! I was awestruck. If you missed any of the general sessions featuring Elandria, you are in luck, because the videos are still available. I encourage you to watch the co-moderators report at: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2018/business/ii/co-moderators-report>.

Yours in growing faith,  
Elizabeth Barrett, Congregational Administrator

## **Adult Religious Exploration: Courageous Conversations on Culture**

"White Supremacy Culture" has been in the news lately, both nationally and within our Unitarian Universalist Association. What does it even mean and reference? What choices do we have to better understand it – and ultimately create something more just? The Rev. Karen and a few members of James Reeb UU Congregation and First Unitarian Society decided to answer these questions by creating this Courageous Conversations class using the Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture as described by Tema Okun at:

[www.csworkshop.org/pdfs/CARC/Overview/3\\_White\\_Sup\\_Culture.PDF](http://www.csworkshop.org/pdfs/CARC/Overview/3_White_Sup_Culture.PDF) as our primary source.

Rev. Karen first introduced the characteristics of White Supremacy Culture to our congregation in April 2017. Back then, I posted it on my refrigerator, re-reading it often and noticing that the antidotes represent a more positive and happier way to live. I was overjoyed to register for the class, which began September 2017 and ended May 2018.

To me, the Characteristics are basically a list of behaviors that don't serve any of us well, including defensiveness; perfectionism; only one right way; paternalism; sense of urgency; quantity over quality; worship of the written word; individualism; I'm the only one; objectivity; power hoarding; fear of open conflict; either/or thinking; progress is bigger, more, and the right to comfort.

In my 23 years as a Unitarian Universalist, I've heard sermons on the dangers of many of these characteristics and have been called into community, shared leadership, conscious communication, deep listening, and the understanding that we don't have to think alike to love alike. **And I'll bet you have, too.**

The class leaders scheduled activities that led us to explore and implement the antidotes in small group problem-solving, communicating in pairs, by presenting skits, and through writing, drawing and other creative activities.

I added so much to my toolbox by taking this class that I might even help teach it someday!

Elizabeth Barrett



## UUA General Assembly 2018 Resolutions

### 2018-2022 Congregational Study Action Issue

#### **Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy**

Racism is fundamental to U.S. social systems. White supremacy culture operates economically, institutionally, politically, and culturally, shaping everyone's chances to live healthy, fulfilling lives. It is also the nation's most toxic export, shaping policies and practices that do profound harm to the Earth and all living things.

#### **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

White supremacy culture shaped everything we consider norms, which recent experience has pushed us to analyze. Sociologist Robert Bellah challenged us to make "the interdependent web of all existence the first of your principles and not the last." Decentering whiteness calls us to decenter individual dignity for our collective liberation. Read more at:

<https://www.uua.org/action/process/csais/undoing-intersectional-white-supremacy/2018-2022-csai-undoing-intersectional>

### 2018 Actions of Immediate Witness

#### **End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish Ice**

<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/end-family-separation-and-detention-asylum-seekers-and-abolish-ice>

#### **Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons and End Prisons for Profit**

<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/dismantle-predatory-medical-care-practices-prisons-and-end-prisons-profit>

#### **We Are all Related: Solidarity now with Indigenous Water Protectors**

<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/we-are-all-related-solidarity-now-indigenous-water-protectors>

### July Music Garden

Greetings! How does your garden grow? If you have the hutzpah to fend off the mosquitos and mud this season, you may already be enjoying some of the benefits like my favorite, fresh peas! I have been out there digging and swatting and humming old tunes by Cole Porter that I'm scheduled to record soon: "Be a Clown" and "Gay Paree."

There is always plenty of good music to investigate in Madison over the summer. Don't miss the LunaArt festival events, culminating in a women's choir singing at First Unitarian the evening of July 1. La Fete de Marquette will be July 12-15. I hope to check out the Rural Musician's Forum and invite you to attend the Green Lake Festival of Music in Ripon to hear the work we will do for the Choral Institute this year! It's a free concert Sunday, July 22, 3:15 pm at Rodman Center for the Arts at Ripon College. There will be a variety of works of Bernstein and Copeland performed under the direction of Stephen Alltop

Our JRUUC Choir closed the season with an enjoyable retreat day that included an introduction to tai chi/qigong from Charlene Avery, a marvelous luncheon provided by my sister and thoughtful members of the congregation, and time for sharing ideas for the coming season as well as just hanging out together. It was a wonderful day of replenish and connection.

Coming up July 8, don't miss service when Rachel Avery and I will host an all music/ hymn Sunday. We still haven't received any requests! Write to [music@jruuc.org](mailto:music@jruuc.org)

With amazing support from the choir, and friends, I will be able to attend the UUMN conference this year! I'm so grateful and excited! It's a rich resource for ideas, motivation, a deeper understanding of UU ideals and of course, new repertoire!

Heather Yonker, Music Director, JRUUC



## The Gift I've Already Been Given

By the Rev. Nathan Ryan, June 13, 2018

I slept in a bed  
in a room with paintings  
on the walls, and  
planned another day  
just like this day.  
But one day, I know,  
it will be otherwise.

—from Jane Kenyon's poem, "Otherwise [1]"

It was about 3 in the afternoon on a highway in the middle of Texas. There was a sign facing the opposing traffic: "God loves you. Praise him." I was in the left lane, driving with my wife and baby. The median was scattered with wildflowers.

All of a sudden my rear passenger tire blew out. The car started to skid. It veered into the right lane, and then the left. We spun completely around into the median. The mud and wildflowers slowed the car until it came to a stop, short of oncoming traffic.

All of us were fine. In fact, my son was mostly annoyed that he was woken up from his nap. The car, other than a busted rim, was fine. Three people and someone from the Texas Department of Transportation stopped to help me dig my car out from the mud (we needed a shovel, an old cardboard box, and a block of wood to fix the tire).

Once I was able to relax a little, and while we cautiously drove the rest of the way to Austin, over and over my panicked brain kept saying, *It might have been otherwise. It might have been otherwise.*

Almost every person I've shared the story with told me that it was God intervening, or that God was looking out for me. The fact that the accident happened right next to a sign literally saying that God loves me certainly adds to that theory.

But my problem with an interventionist God is that there's a point at which my mortality and my family's mortality will not be intervened with. Defining God this way means God will fail us all when we die. That's not fair to us and it's not fair to God.

Instead of looking for God in the hands that saved me, I'm trying to find God in the people who responded. I'm trying to find God in the gift I've already been given: being alive in this beautiful and imperfect world. Maybe God exists in that paradoxical intersection of being grateful that today was not otherwise, and knowing that one day it will be otherwise. Maybe being loved by God has nothing to do with life's outcome and everything to do with appreciation.

### About the Author

The Rev. Nathan Ryan, associate minister at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, gave the "Charge to the Children" at Rev. Karen Armina's Installation ceremony here at JRUUC. This reading is from the UUA's Braver/Wiser column:

[https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/today-was-not-otherwise.](https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/today-was-not-otherwise)



AND ENJOY JULY!

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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).
- ❖ Newsletter submissions may be emailed to office@jruuc.org. The ***deadline for submissions*** is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month at 5 pm. Please limit articles to 200 words. Please be careful not to include sensitive information.
- ❖ Read *East Breeze* online at [www.jruuc.org](http://www.jruuc.org).

**Religious Education (RE) & Childcare:** Childcare & Children's RE are available most worship services.

\***Karen Armina** takes Mondays off and reserves Fridays for sermon-writing.