

EAST BREEZE

Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 27, Number 8 — August 2018

“Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is an act of self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.”

— Audre Lorde

Connections

Last month, I described myself as being both hopeful and tired. This is still true, and I’m learning that it’s going to continue to be true, as long as I care about love and justice in this world. The work appears to have no end, and it’s very possible, for me and for us, to wear ourselves out. Rest and renewal are crucial, as Audre Lorde said.

So I’m practicing balance this summer. As I rest, reflect, and read, I find myself called to head to Arizona the first weekend in August for a joint action by No More Deaths, the UU Service Committee, and other partners, called “Faith Floods the Desert.” Nine humanitarian-aid volunteers are facing charges for leaving water in the desert, after changes in permitting to be on federal land have served to target them for these charges. A direct action has been planned to stock water caches, and over 60 faith leaders have answered the call to come and risk - and contest - the same charges. The goals of this action are to call attention to the escalating injustice of US policies toward migrants; to act in solidarity with the volunteers facing the charges; and to raise the call of our faith traditions as an act of resistance against the cruelty and violence being perpetuated. This will be a learning experience for me, as I’ve had little direct engagement in this important issue, and it will include training on interacting with law enforcement officials, community building with other activists and clergy, and a chance to witness court proceedings for individuals facing deportation under Operation Streamline. I will take your thoughts and prayers with me, and return with information and experience to reflect on and share.

I hope your summer contains what you need - whether it be renewal for yourself or for what you’re called to do to bring the Love – or some balance of those things. I’m looking forward to seeing you soon, and hearing about it.

In faith and love, Karen



10 AM Sunday Services

- 8/5 “Spiritual Growth Stories”**
Rebecca Everett, Pete Haney, Brian McNurlen, and Ginny Scholtz; with Stephani Pescitelli
- 8/12 “Faith Floods the Desert”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
The first weekend of August, I’m heading to Arizona to engage in what the UU College of Social Justice is calling a “strategic act of resistance in response to criminal charges being levied against activists whose humanitarian actions have been focused on saving the lives of migrants who are often lost in the desert.” This morning, I’ll offer some reflections on the trip.
- 8/19 “From Tolerance to Inclusion”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
Today Madison celebrates our GLBTQ+ selves and neighbors! In worship this morning, we’ll explore the role of Love in the work that teaches us to seek full inclusion of all people.
- 8/26 To Be Determined**
The Rev. Karen Armina



Minister's Availability in August

Rev. Karen will be on study leave through August 8 and will be available for pastoral care emergencies only. Please call or text her if an emergency arises for you. After August 8, she will resume regular working hours – please contact her to set up a meeting or conversation!



Wednesday Evening Vespers

Vespers services will resume in October, on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.

Library Helpers Needed!

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, and works for children.

And 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.



President's Column

August is a month that runs the gambit of emotions for me. It is high summer and my routines have been interrupted for so many weeks it makes my head spin. It is my birthday month, so I get lots of treats. On the horizon (especially during the second half of the month) I see fresh starts, new notebooks, and regular schedules looming.

The 2018-19 Board of Trustees is meeting as an entity for the first time in August. We will welcome Thomas Lund, our new secretary, and review roles for everyone else. There is still time to talk to me if you are interested in serving our congregation on the board as president-elect! I am excited to get going.

The BOT has been changing over the past five years and is (or is aiming to be) a mission-based board that deals with the governance side of our church work, including policies and procedures, bylaws, financial well-being, and our building upkeep and visioning. This year we will have the opportunity as a congregation to revisit our mission statement that has helped guide us for 25 years.

Keep an eye out for information, in this and upcoming newsletters, and mark your calendars for **Saturday October 20** for a day of re-examining out congregation's mission and mission statement.

Besides Governance, the other big side of church work is Ministry. This includes all the work of our amazing minister, Rev. Karen Armina, our committee on shared ministry (COSM), worship associates, ALL of our social justice work, RE, music, our taking care of each other, etc. During the summer, while our minister has taken some breaks to learn and relax, many people have stepped up. I would like us all to take an opportunity to thank those who have done important ministry work this summer, and throughout the year. Thanks to all of the people who make this community thrive!

Enjoy this glorious month of Summer.

Peace,

Jocie Luglio, President of the BOT



Mission Statement Musings

As announced at our congregational meeting in May 2018, JRUUC will revisit our mission statement this congregation year (2018-19). The BOT has a sub-committee focused on this work. We'll be using a monthly newsletter column to highlight this important work of our congregation.

The current JRUUC mission statement reads as follows:

We....

Embody a broad spectrum of cultures, lifestyles and creeds;

Honor the Earth and the seasons of nature;

Value truth and reason over doctrine and dogma;

Encourage social action in the name of liberty and justice;

Celebrate our community and the journey of life; and Unite in our quest for personal and spiritual growth.

This mission statement was created during the first year of our congregation's existence, and has not been revised since. **That was 25 years ago!** In light of our 25th anniversary and the recognition that both our wider community and congregation have gone through changes over the years, the JRUUC Board of Trustees (BOT) has discerned that it's time to revisit the mission statement. Indeed in *Moving on from Church Folly Lane: The Pastoral to Program Shift*, Robert T. Latham references an example of a congregation with a **10-year-old** mission statement, "This does not necessarily mean it needs to be rewritten, but the effect of cultural change should be weighed in reference to its sustained power to motivate the congregation." Furthermore many current members were not part of creating this original JRUUC mission statement. Latham reflects on this by stating, "...re-writing this statement will broaden its ownership and increase the membership's power of commitment to their reason for being. If nothing else, it will create a dialogue about reason for existence."

A mission statement is vital for both our members and prospective members to know who we are and why we're here. Robert T. Latham also distinguishes between mission and ministry, "Mission is simply a statement of reason for being. If succinct, it can be stated in a single pithy sentence. Ministry is everything that is done to fulfill this reason for being." A clear mission statement, therefore, will help guide our ministry and everything that is done to fulfill JRUUC's reason for being (worship, social justice, stewardship, membership, fundraising, etc.).

Here are some things the BOT invites you to start thinking about:

- Do you agree it's time to revisit our mission statement?
- Do you think the mission statement reflects why JRUUC exists?
- Does our mission statement keep JRUUC centered during times of change, crisis or transition?
- How does our mission statement inspire and motivate our ministry?

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 20**, please, when we will join together for a congregational-wide workshop focused on the JRUUC mission statement. The work of reviewing our mission statement will take all of us and we want all in our community to have a voice in this process. The BOT believes we will be energized and inspired as we go through this process and so much of our work at JRUUC will be enhanced with the focus and clarity we'll gain as a result. The BOT looks forward to this journey together.

"A congregation without a clear and concise mission-covenant statement is like the proverbial ship without a rudder, its destiny will be chosen by the sea and wind of its environment. Conversely, a congregation with a clear and concise mission-covenant statement has that guiding rudder that empowers it to use the sea and wind of its environment to move toward a chosen destiny."

-- Robert T. Latham

Article submitted by Rev. Karen, Jean Skinner, Sarah Hallas, & Beth Esser



Financial Update

End of Fiscal Year 2017-18

Total income:	\$189,714
Total expenses	\$193,027
Deficit:	\$3,313

These three numbers are the most interesting ones I can give. There are a few small bills outstanding that cannot make an appreciable difference to the result, or the income.

Pledges made up \$160,651, or 84.7% of the total. Thanks so much to you generous pledgers! Our portion of Share the Plate (half of total contributions) was 3.6% of the total income; Reeb Rave contributed 3.3% and rentals another 3.2%.

Expenses were dominated by staff benefits, as they should be: 72% of the total. The mortgage was 6.9%, other building expenses (utilities, insurance) 7.0%, our contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Association, MidAmerica UUs, and MOSES was 4.2%, and the total of our committees and outreach, spread widely, was 6.3%. Of course, half of the Share the Plate was also an expense.

I have believed for a few months that our deficit would be much larger. It was budgeted to be \$5,127, and we have incurred some unbudgeted expenses as well (notably, repair of the fire alarm system.) Thus, I am encouraged by the small size of the deficit, while noting that no deficit is sustainable in the long run. Our deficit is smaller than expected because (a) our income exceeded the budgeted by \$3,250, from increases in pledging and several fundraising events; (b) our committees spent \$2,973 less than they were budgeted, or 15% less.

I have two minds about this fiscal prudence by the committees. I prefer a \$3.3K deficit to the \$6.6K we would have if committees had spent their budgeted amounts. However, I do not encourage committees to withhold any services just to save money. I hope that our congregants submit suitable expenses for Reeb to pay instead of opening their own wallets, since that might become an expectation that would cause stress for some of us. Let's view each program as worth supporting with whatever funds it needs.

It has been a very active and productive year, and we can look forward to maintaining our Beloved Community in the future.

John Mathis, Treasurer



Religious Education News

With the arrival of August comes preparation for a new year of Religious Education classes at JRUUC!

Sunday RE begins September 23

Children's religious education classes will be grouped the same as last year into Nursery, Grade PK-1, Grade 2-5, and Grade 6+. Registration forms will be available in the foyer.

OWL: Our Whole Lives

We are happy to be offering Our Whole Lives Lifespan Sexuality Education to youth in grades 7-9. If you haven't yet heard from Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Education, or Virginia Harrison and would like to receive information about OWL classes, please contact Virginia at harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com or Alice Mandt at re@jruuc.org.

RE Teachers & Assistants Needed

If you are interested in helping out in a classroom this year, let us know! We will be holding a teacher/assistant training later in the month and would love to have you join us. For more information, contact Alice at re@jruuc.org.

Justice at JRUUC



The Promise and Practice of Our Faith Campaign

Thanks to everyone who made a pledge for Black Lives of UU through this campaign! We pledged **\$1,971.15**, well over the threshold we needed so that our donation will be matched by a special fund. The deadline for the match has been extended! If you missed this opportunity to give, you may still donate by going **here**. Be sure to indicate that you're a member of James Reeb UU to get the matching donation!

More information on the campaign and the history that led up to it can be found here:

<https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice/frequently-asked-questions>

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Thursday, August 16, 7 to 8:30 pm. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barbara Whitney at salbwhitney@gmail.com.

Please Help with a Bake Sale and Garage Sale for Immigrant Sanctuary Orton Park Saturday, August 25!

Our next immigrant Sanctuary fundraiser will be a combo bake sale/garage sale during the Orton Park Festival from 8 am to 4 pm August 25, at Leila and Craig's house right across the street at 1122 Spaight St. If you can donate garage sale items valued at least \$5 each or home-made baked goods, please contact Leila Pine as soon as you can at: sabinosanctuary@gmail.com.

Also let Leila know if you can sign up to table/sell stuff for a two-hour shift (two people per shift) and we'll tell you which time slots you can choose from. Thanks, Reebers – you are wonderful! For more information, contact Leila Pine of the Sanctuary Leadership Team.



Madison UUs Side With Love in the Pride Parade August 19!

We will again participate in the glorious OutReach Parade, lining up at 12:30 pm in the 500-600 blocks of State Street. The parade begins at 1 pm up to the Capitol and around the Square. Look for the bright yellow Side With Love banner.

Please wear yellow or purple or any JRUUC shirt to show that we Side with Love! We have some of the old yellow Standing on the Side of Love shirts for sale for \$10. Please let Elizabeth know your size! If you would like a new Side with Love shirt, visit the inSpirit Book and Gift Shop at:

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Side-with-Love-C1401.aspx>.



Everyone deserves healthy food!

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

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.

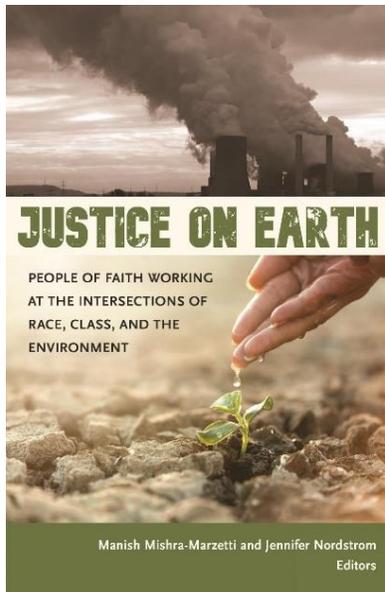
Sustainable Saturday Night

August 25

6 pm dinner; 7 pm program

Please contact Beth Esser for details:

Beth_esser@hotmail.com

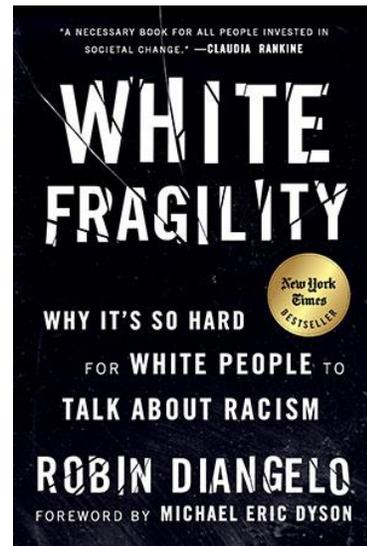


UU Common Read 2018-19

The Common Read Selection Committee is pleased to announce the 2018-19 Common Read: *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (Skinner House Books, 2018).

At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, *Justice on Earth* explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. Those on the margins are invariably those most affected by climate disaster and environmental toxins. The book's authors ask us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth and for all life. It invites us to look at our current challenges through a variety of different perspectives, offers tools to equip us for sustained engagement, and proposes multiple pathways for follow-up action. For more information, and to purchase this book, go to: <https://www.uua.org/books/read>

A discussion guide for congregations, offering both a single session and a three-session format, will be available online October 1, 2018.



Administrator's Thoughts

I finished reading *White Fragility: Why It's so hard for White People To Talk about Racism* recently and immediately began to re-read it. Author and sociologist Robin DiAngelo has been co-facilitating trainings on racism and how to combat it for a numbers of years. Back in 2009, I went to a Racism 101 workshop she co-taught. I'd been to a number of trainings already, but hers helped me solidify the important concepts.

According to Beacon Press, "In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively." Dr. DiAngelo has taken everything she's gleaned from over 20 years of co-teaching white people in all sorts of organizations and synthesized it all! I highly recommend that you read *White Fragility*. Learn more and take a White Fragility quiz at:

<http://www.beacon.org/White-Fragility-P1346.aspx>

I hope you saw the notices about participating in the OutReach Pride Parade Sunday, August 19! Please wear yellow, purple, or JRUUC shirts as Madison Unitarian Universalists join forces to Side With Love for our LGBTQI selves. Side With Love is the new (since April) name for the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, which began as a rallying cry for immigration reform and is now used for a number of justice causes. My bright yellow banner is currently at Budget Signs for word-replacement and a shave down from twelve to ten feet.

Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth Barrett, Congregational Administrator



Flow

Music Notes

GROW WITH THE FLOW!

Rachel Avery, Doug Erickson and I prepared an awesome music service in July. If you missed it, here are some portions of it for your perusal.

Reflection from July 12, 2018 – Heather Yonker

Performing music is like a microcosm of life. It is true. With an intention toward a particular outcome, we learn an alphabet, develop a palette of tools, lay them out within a structural boundary, with room for give, but then at some point, we must release the metacognition, and intellectualizing, count off and GO.

Forward that is, for to look back destroys presence in the moment. It requires not relaxation, but rather, release and an alert readiness. The intention must be forward. Even during a rest, or a phrase ending, this energy stays up and attentive. If there is a complete relax of energy, the flow is broken, the song ends, and must begin again wherever you pick it up.

As an arts educator, over the years, no matter what the subject, I have distilled the most critical lesson down to these two words: **Flow and Intention.**

It is a lifelong practice that I humbly continue every day, for that is the “more” that my soul seeks.

Steven Kolter wrote in his book *The Rise of Superman*, “Flow is the doorway to the “more” most of us seek. Rather than telling ourselves to get used to it, that’s all there is, instead, learn how to enter into flow.”

One of the most popularly requested songs in the UU tradition is “Blue Boat Home”

Why do we like it much?

The meter is set up for a lilting flow, like the ocean waves, the lyric speaks our hearts’ longing, the arrangement sparkles with attentive energy and forward motion.

How much you like a song depends primarily on one thing: how well you can predict what comes next. Great musicians play with your brain and expectations in the way that they get you to expect something, and then surprise you, before taking you back to comfortable terrain.

Flow happens when we are met with a challenge and we have the skills to equal it. You have to want it, make yourself available to it, and go forward, selflessly.

1-2-3 Hit it! All the best! Heather

SINGING WITH LOVE



Benefit Concert*
September 23
7- 9 pm in the
Reeb Sanctuary

Featuring

- ★ Ritt Dietz
- ★ Ken Lonquist
- ★ Jonathan Zarow
- ★ Eastside Acoustic Ensemble
- ★ And More

***To help renovate our building to become a Sanctuary Hosting Site!**

Contact Pete Haney to learn more:
phaneyster@gmail.com



Red Bubble Letters

By Misha Sanders August 1, 2018

My sister had just taught me how to make bubble letters, which I thought would surely impress all of my friends. So, before all the other children arrived, I drew and meticulously colored, in big wobbly red bubble letters, "GOD IS LOVE" on the green chalkboard in my kindergarten Sunday school classroom.

Not long into class, after all the children had arrived and pretty much ignored my artistry, one of my all-time favorite teachers picked up an eraser and began to swipe over the dusty old board, much to my dismay. But I was even more dismayed that my artistic creation did not seem to be fading despite her vigorous attempt. Mysterious. Miraculous, perhaps. Turns out, that red chalk that was — in my defense — *on the chalk tray* was actually a stumpy little red crayon. The tears started, as I recall, right about the time friends began whispering that I was definitely in big trouble. I was as mortified as a 6-year-old can get.

I was mortified, that is, only until that beautiful, wise Sunday School teacher scooped me into her arms in a clear moment of amazing grace. I heard her deep, alto laugh in my ear and she said, "Oh, no! No one is in trouble! Don't you see, dear children, this is just perfect! What can erase God's love? *Nothing!*"

She ended the warm hug with a squeeze and then gleefully picked up a piece of white chalk and began quickly writing, around my unintentionally semi-permanent crayon art, all the things that we could think to yell out that might make us feel unlovable in the eyes of God: *Lying. Cheating in school. Cussing. Hitting your brother. Cutting in line for the slide. Chewing gum in church.* (It was a lot for a kid, those conservative religious rules in the 70s.) But then with dramatic flourish, she again

picked up the dusty eraser and wiped it all away leaving only... GOD IS LOVE.

GOD IS LOVE.

In big wobbly red bubble letters.

It is my only memory of a lesson from Kindergarten Sunday School class. Maybe it's the only one that counts.

Prayer

Spirit of Love, when we try hard but make a mess anyway (because we are all only precious children, after all) may we remember to laugh, hold each other close, and marvel at the truth that remains; which, in the end, is only **LOVE**.

From Braver/ Wiser

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/red-bubble-letters>



The First UU Church of San Diego

Come Enjoy San Diego with Us

We are excited to announce our brand new program which lets you see San Diego through the eyes of its locals! For one low package price you can spend an unforgettable time, immersing yourself through some of San Diego's most beloved attractions – all the while enjoying the company of like-minded UU's. Get the inside story on our history and hidden favorites, as well as experiencing our World Famous Zoo and our lovely beaches. Sample cuisine from around the world in our richly cultural border city. We have even allowed time for you to tell us what you want to see or do!

Learn more here:

<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/sdvisit>

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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 20th 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.

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

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