

EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 28, Number 3 — March 2019

March theme: What does it mean to be a people of journey?

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Check-in question: Please share one stop on your faith journey that was meaningful to you.

Connections

I was with a few UU friends recently, and we were talking about words people in our faith tradition enjoy using – perhaps overusing, in the opinion of some in the room. Journey was one of these words. We UUs love to talk about our journeys! We seem to really resonate with the metaphors of maps and paths and traveling for the way we change and grow, both as individuals and a religious tradition.

As I dig into the metaphor of the religious journey, I find myself thinking about beginnings and endings. Where and when did I start on the path on which I find myself today, and how will this particular path turn sharply or even end? I think about how much control we have on our journeys, too. Is the path I’m on one of those easily distinguishable trails through the woods, beaten down because of how popular it is? Or am I bushwhacking through a part of the forest nobody has ever been before? I think about rest stops on a trip, where we stretch our bodies, change our position, take in nourishment, drop off waste. I used to push as hard as I could on longer trips, to see how fast I could make it to my destination; today, I stop to get coffee and take breaks, to look at what is around me instead of just whipping by it at top speed.

Each of us has traveled our own faith journey in our own way, and we come together to share what we discover. In our faith tradition, rather than being bound together by a set of common beliefs, we covenant to witness and honor the differences. And so we weave together our community of seekers, and create a dynamic and ever-changing whole.

In faith and love,
Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

3/3 “Woven Together”

The Rev. Karen Armina

We are a congregation of interwoven lives, ideas, values, and actions. This morning, in a multigenerational service, we’ll remember together how we create and nurture the fabric of our community. This is the kick-off service for our budget drive.

3/10 “Hello and Good-bye”

The Rev. Karen Armina

Our lives are full of beginnings and endings, and life is the journey in between. This morning, we’ll explore how we say hello and goodbye, sometimes at the same moment.

3/17 “...and the Inspiring Fellowship of the Church”

Ellie Connolly

Join Ellie as she reflects on being on the stewardship team, and stories and lessons learned about being part of a church family and community.

3/24 “Religious Education Reflections”

Stephani Pescitelli and Friends

Join Stephani and various people involved in our religious education program for children and youth, to share stories about their RE experiences.

3/31 “Detours and Other Journeys”

The Rev. Karen Armina

Sometimes the best adventures are unplanned. In this morning’s multi-generational service, we’ll explore how curiosity and willingness to explore can help us find things we didn’t know existed.



Wednesday Evening Vespers Service March 6 at 7:30 pm

Join Rev. Karen for a time of quiet reflection. Please note the later time, which is to allow people to attend the Tony Robinson Lantern Release at the Social Justice Center / Milton McPike Park (formerly Central Park) at 6 pm.

Minister's Office Hours in March

Rev. Karen will be out of the office for spring break the week of March 25. During the rest of the month, she is in the office at JRUUC on Thursdays from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm. She can also be found at Café Brittolli (formerly Café Zoma) on Tuesdays between 1:30 and 3:30 pm. And she's more than happy to meet with you for a cup of coffee/tea or a walk at any other mutually agreed-upon time – just call to set it up!

Sabbatical News from Rev. Karen

Thank you for helping me make the space for rest and renewal. As is often the case when we're not at our best, I hadn't realized how exhausted I was before I took the time off. I love being your minister, and the work of our ministry – and it's emotional and spiritual work that draws on my resources in a way that I think can only be fully replenished with a deliberate focus on renewal.

I spent the first week of my sabbatical with Catherine, who happened to be off school for snow and cold days. This was a lovely and unexpected bonus, to have full days with my kid with nowhere for either of us to go, and we took advantage of the time to rest and play together. I was away for much of the rest of the month, in Minneapolis with my partner and in Arizona on my own. Both places gave me the space I needed to let my body come

back to its natural rhythms, my mind settle into a slower pace, and my spirit breathe. In Arizona, I saw the sunset and then the stars from Kitt Peak Observatory, and remembered how I am part of this amazing Universe, made from it and able to gaze upon it with wonder. I walked in the desert, and was blown away by the scale of the landscape, the contrast of the flat desert floor and the jagged mountains rising from it, the way life has adapted to survive in the hot dry starkness, the diversity of ecosystems along the elevation gradient of the mountains. I breathed in the warm air, and very slowly, felt the shift in myself back to my self.

I'm sorry I wasn't here when Annie passed away, and I'm not at all surprised to hear that the medical emergency she had in our building was attended to quickly and appropriately, and that you all made the space for each other to process what happened. You should know that our Caring Tree folks got in touch with me and with Kelly Crocker right away that morning, and that I was with you in spirit as the news of her passing sunk in for all of us. I'm sad Annie is no longer with us, and I will miss her.

I'm grateful to all of you for understanding how important clergy renewal is. And I'm very glad to be back.



President's Column

The Board of Trustees had a winter retreat this past month as well as our regular monthly meeting. At the retreat we had a chance to do an extended check-in, revisit our 2018-2019 goals, discuss our governance and board responsibilities, and figure out some ways to cover maintenance issues as we both search for a new cleaner and increase our building rentals. We also spent time exploring how our congregation is doing based on a rubric of

Racial Justice in UU Congregations. We are also trying to pay attention to capacity and resiliency for all us (members, volunteers, Minister and staff) as we look at all the work we collectively do for our JRUUC community.

At the monthly BOT meeting we had our normal reflection time based on the reflection shared by the covenant groups. I love that we do this every month. We also discussed how we accept monthly reports from the minister, special project teams, finance committee, and BOT focus teams. Some reports can be accepted without discussion and we also need to have space to ask questions when needed. **One report was from a new task force – the Reeb Safety and Security Research task force – which will meet soon. Contact me if you are interested in exploring building safety.**

We also discussed an article called "The Death of Sunday School and the Future of Faith Formation" which is an interesting perspective as we move towards reexamining our children's RE program with a consultant from the MidAmerica region of the UUA when Karen returns from mini-sabbatical.

The board is working for our congregation in many areas. I am thrilled about the work we are doing around our new mission statement and I am looking forward to the rest of this church year. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Peace.

Jocie Luglio, Board President

Attention Committees and Teams

Please submit your budget requests for next year,
July 2019 to June 2010,
by March 18!

Specific details about what expenses the funds will cover is helpful for the budgeting process.

For questions or to submit requests, contact Rev.Karen or Jocie Luglio.

Membership News



Exploring Membership Class

Saturday, March 9

9 am – 1 pm

Come Join Us!

Ever thought about membership in our
**James Reeb Unitarian Universalist
Congregation?**

Want to know more?

Rev. Karen Armina, leaders of the congregation, and the Membership Committee will assist as you will explore your own spirituality while getting to know others. You will learn about this congregation and UUism in general.

Great snacks and lunch are included.

And if the past is any indication,

We will have fun!

Contact Mary for more information:

marycwagner@frontier.com



Games Night at Reeb

Friday, March 15 at 6 pm

Join members and friends, old and new,
anyone interested in bringing fun to 2019!



Soup and Bread Fundraising Lunch Sunday, March 10

Please join members and friends of the congregation for good food and conversation at this after-service meal.

If you're interested in providing soup or bread, please contact Cindy Rudd, clrudd47@gmail.com or 608-469-5269.

Suggested donation is \$6/adult, \$3 for kids. This event is coordinated by the FUNd Raising Committee.



Annual Budget Drive March 2019

March is our Annual Budget Drive, and our theme this year is "Woven Together". Every year our annual budget drive is a little different, and this year it's even more different than usual! There are three important changes this year to our Annual Budget Drive.

The first is that for the first time in several years our budget drive conversations will be happening through one-on-one conversations. **One of the goals of our community is to create connections between our members, and many people, myself included, find it much easier to be my truest, most authentic self in conversations rather than large gatherings.** We also know that people are at their most generous when they're appealed to directly rather than as part of a group effort, and generosity is the frame ("warping board") upon which we weave our tapestry.

The second change is that this year we'll be asking members to authorize their pledges as a "sustaining" pledge. This means that your monthly pledge will continue beyond just this current fiscal year, until such time as you direct your pledge to change. This will mean that future budget drives will look a little different because we'll be able to change our focus away from collecting pledge sheets.

Finally, we have a new way of giving to JRUC this year. I'm pleased to announce that you can now give online by going to <https://jruc.org/support-jruc> and following the steps there. You can pay with either a credit/debit card or with a PayPal account. This new method does involve transaction fees, so we welcome people to extend their generosity to cover these fees. And you're welcome to continue having your funds electronically deducted from your bank the way you've always done it.

Charlie McNulty, Stewardship Team

Financial Update

	January 2019	Year to date
Income	\$11,136	\$123,632
Expenses	\$14,050	\$102,689

January brought is relatively small pledge income (\$9873) that follows the tax-induced December flood of \$21,634. Our cash flow for January was "only" \$2,914 in the red, not at all bad considering the low monthly income.

There are several positive things we can see in our year-to-date figures. Pledges are ahead of our budget (\$102,048 compared to \$92,022). I appreciate the efforts of many hard-working congregants (say, those having worked on Reeb Rave, rental income, after-service meals, religious education, and other activities) for contributing to our income. Our expenses are below budget (\$102,351 versus \$112,679). But, clearly, our strength is really based on the love we feel and show.

With best wishes,
John Mathis

Mission Statement Musings

Drumroll please.....we're pleased to unveil the second draft of the JRUUC mission statement:

We are a faith community rooted in Unitarian Universalist principles, called by love to welcome the seeker, nurture spiritual wholeness, and grow justice in our world.

Many thanks to our Refinement Team, Sarah Cook & Colleen O'Hara, who attended the January cottage meetings and listened attentively to the discussion. They used the feedback in these cottage meetings to draft this second version. The congregation will now have two opportunities to discuss and provide feedback on this draft in March:

Sunday, March 10 from 11:30 - 1 pm in the Sanctuary during the Soup and Bread lunch hosted by the FUNdraising Team, childcare will be offered.

Wednesday March 13 from 6:30 – 8 pm in the Sanctuary. If you plan to come to the Wednesday evening and need childcare, please contact Beth Esser, 608-239-1353 or beth_esser@hotmail.com.

The final draft will be released in the May newsletter with expected vote of approval at the Congregational meeting in May. **We need you - the more Reebers involved in this process, the more our mission statement will represent the whole congregation!**

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



March Music Journey

Forward, March! Let's get out of February already! I am well acquainted enough with my snow shovel. Hopefully March will be the bridge that leads us to an early spring. I've crossed this bridge from the photo, perhaps thousands of times. It could be just the same old bridge, but rarely do I traverse it without a special moment of beauty or awe. It's some kind of vortex where I step out of the monkey mind and back into my heart.

Somehow, it bridges where I am in life now, to where I came from, in a way that causes me to pause and nod respectfully at the journey. It's a neutral, safe place. An observation point. It feels like home, right there in the middle of the bridge. One does not have to leave home however, to embark on a journey, but rather, look with fresh eyes. So rest up, take a nap! Open your eyes and look again. Listen too, to what you may not have heard before. Whether it is the stillness, or simply a good song, there is always a short journey that can rejuvenate you.

The James Reeb UUC choir continues its journey in recognition of all that has been built, and all that we continue laboring over in love. Perhaps it has been for you, a bridge over troubled waters, a safe neutral place, an observation point?

Our hymn of the month will be #4 **"I Brought My Spirit to the Sea"** by Alec Wyton and Max Kapp. *I brought my spirit to the sea, I stood upon the shore.*

I gazed upon infinity, I heard the waters roar!

Wyton, was a highly esteemed choirmaster and organist, known for contemporizing English and American church music. The lyrics to this hymn were inspired by Max Kapp's summer institute in Ferry Beach, Maine. Max was known as the "Orator

of the North Country.” He was in high demand as a preacher, and played a significant role in the 1961 Universalist Unitarian merger. He was a great song leader in the pulpit. And while no significant scholarly writings are evident, he did leave sermons, poems, hymns and meditations. For example “Earth’s Common Things”, a Lenten meditation and “Gratitude.” He was also instrumental in starting *UUElderberries*, a newsletter for the welfare and connectedness of retired ministers.

In his poem “Gratitude,” Max Kapp wrote:

Often I have felt that I must praise my world
For what my eyes and ears have seen these many
years,
And what my heart has loved.
And often I have tried to start my lines:
"Dear earth," I say,
And then I pause
To look once more.
Soon I am bemused
And far away in wonder.
So I never get beyond "Dear Earth."



We send out gratitude and kudos to Elliot and Abby Lydon for their musical contributions during a service last month! I was really impressed with their skill and poise! And I am so happy to see the bridge being built for

Our next generation of music at JRUUC

This Month, make your own list of Music for a
Road Trip!
Here are a few
to get you
started:

“On the Road to Utopia”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXM02I4FLmA>

“On the Road Again,” Willie Nelson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v9-InvDwMw>

“Hit The Road Jack”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY4jondX6tg>

“Don’t Stop Believin’,” Journey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9NeNwEr-2k>

“You Can Go Your Own Way, Fleetwood Mac

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ul-cZyuYq4>

“The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not.” Albert Schweitzer

Safe Travels,

Heather Yonker, music director



Heather’s Soul Matters picks

Home by Warsan Shire

Full poem found at

<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/home-433/>

Spoken and visual version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI9D92Xiygo>

“No one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark
you only run for the border
when you see the whole city running as well...”

or

https://www.ted.com/talks/pico_iyer_where_is_home

Bold & Untold (for Women’s History Month)

<https://www.makers.com/bold-and-untold>

“The badass women in history you never knew about—
until now”

Love this Exercise!

Your Journey in Six Words Larry Smith is passionate about helping people share their life journeys. He created a website with numerous tools and prompts to make sharing easier. One prompt turned out to be everyone’s favorite: Pair down your life journey to six words. It was inspired by Ernest Hemingway taking up a bar bet to write a novel in 6 words. Hemingway’s

response: "For Sale: Baby shoes, never worn." Besides making the telling of your journey easier, this six-word challenge helps people focus on, celebrate and hold on to the essence of their stories.

So, this month, take up the challenge for yourself.

Below are some example six-word journeys and online resources to help you on your way.

Example Six-Word Journeys

Married by Elvis; divorced by Friday
Down for maintenance, be back soon.

Threw spaghetti on wall; some stuck.

Told to marry rich. Married Richard.

We're the family you gossip about.

The psychic said I'd be richer.

Eight thousand orgasms; one baby.

Sixty. Single. Rich. Call me collect.

Mom was "earthy"; Now I'm "green."

Son's autism broke and rebuilt me.

Tore up my own suicide letter.

Class clown; Class president; town drunk.

Forged through fire; sustained by friendships.

No future, no past. Not lost.

Life's GPS keeps saying, recalculating... recalculating.

The exits were entrances in disguise.

Play. Play. Play. Play. Play. Play.

Online Resources: • The Story of the Six-Word Project:

Why it worked and why it matters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jR1V7lxsOu0>

- **Spotify tips: Journey Theme** Wayfaring Stranger by Eric Bibb, Fast Car by Tracy Chapman, Me and Julio Down by the School Yard by Paul Simon



Justice at JRUUC

Trans/forming Allyship: building skills to support trans people in our lives

Saturday, March 16

9 am to 4:30 pm here at Reeb

In spite of increasing acceptance of transgender identities, trans community members still face intense stigma, violence and barriers to participation. Many service providers and community leaders have good intentions about trans inclusion and, with a deeper understanding and expanded toolbox, they can build on those intentions to create truly trans-inclusive practices and policies. This workshop is for anyone who is motivated to build their capacity to more effectively support trans people in their professional and community contexts. Through a lively combination of presentations, small- and large-group discussions, practical exercises and collaborative problem-solving, participants will:

- Gain understanding of trans identities and experiences
- Examine personal, organizational, and community barriers to inclusion
- Develop strategies to support trans people in everyday interactions and in their professional roles
- Plan next steps to put their allyship into action, while staying in touch with the needs and priorities of trans communities

The details:

Bagels & Registration at 8:30, workshop 9 am to - 4:30 pm

Lunch on your own (lunch break 12-1)

Sliding scale registration fee (\$75-\$125) includes all materials plus snacks.

<https://transallyshiptraining-jruuc.brownpapertickets.com>

We have two free registrations left for the Trans/forming Allyship workshop. Contact Elizabeth Barrett at office@jruuc.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night March 23

Potluck at 6, program starts at 7. The program will be an update from Voces de la Frontera on their lobby day, and on their effort to create a state driver's card for undocumented immigrants. We will also have a representative of MOSES to provide updates on their efforts and the upcoming WISDOM lobby day.

Tuesday, March 26 MOSES/WISDOM Action Day

**Madison Masonic Center
301 Wisconsin Avenue
All are encouraged to attend
Registration is \$25 Now!
<https://wisdomwisconsin.org/>**

**8:00 Breakfast and networking
9:00 Opening Worship
3:00 Closing at the State Capitol**



Lockers for homeless students are finally installed!

We will be working with the social worker at East High School and Friends of State Street to get youth set up for using the lockers.

Building Sanctuary Update

Our fundraising campaign to prepare our building to offer sanctuary is continuing to progress. We have raised \$26,660 so far. We are getting so close to our goal of \$30,000! Come help us get even closer to our goal and enjoy a wonderful evening of world class music. Award winning folk singer Joe Jencks is coming to JRUUC to play a benefit concert for our fundraiser on March 8, 2019 at 7:30pm. See ad for more info about this wonderful performer.

Pete Haney just finished teaching a six week adult RE class titled "Immigration as a Moral Issue". The UUA curriculum offered participants a current and historical perspective on the forces that shape immigration in the US today. The session culminated with a guest speaker from Voces de la Frontera discussing immigration in Wisconsin.

The Dane Sanctuary Coalition, of which JRUUC is a member, continues to train volunteers and develop procedures so we will be ready if someone should request sanctuary in our community.

Jeanne Lydon
Sanctuary Leadership Team

Religious Education for Children and Youth

If you've been reading this column, you know there are some changes ahead for our program. We're working with an RE consultant to discern what changes might be best for the vision and needs of our community. We had scheduled congregational listening sessions with our consultant for February 24 and 25, but she was unable to get here because of snow. **We've rescheduled the listening sessions for April 14 and 15, and hope you can attend one!** There will be a session during worship on that Sunday for our children and youth. Please watch your weekly emails for the rest of the session times.

In the meantime, with the exception of our youngest children, what our children and youth do on Sunday mornings will look a little different. Starting in March, kids in second grade and above will meet all together in the multipurpose room on the Sundays

we aren't having a multigenerational service. Our preK-1 class will continue to meet as it has been, and we're still working on making sure the nursery is staffed every Sunday morning. The March 3 and March 31 services will be multigenerational.

Leadership will look different too. Virginia Harrison has been our RE Committee chair, and has been working on teacher recruitment and scheduling since Alice resigned. She is stepping down from all those roles as of March 1, and has joined the Transition Team. The RE Committee will not meet again until the Transition Team has received the consultant's report from the listening sessions. Rev. Karen will manage the schedule until the transition period is over.

We will continue to need volunteers for nursery care, assistants for the preK-1 room, and leaders for the second grade and above group. **Please contact Rev. Karen if you're willing to spend a Sunday morning with our young people.**

We believe this transition period will continue through June, until our summer RE program begins. Our 2-5 and 6+ classes will usually be combined into one, and children and youth may choose between those classes and staying in worship for the whole service. We anticipate that we'll also be trying out some new things starting in May, based on the recommendations our consultant makes after the listening sessions, and that we'll be putting together a job description for an RE professional at the same time. We're looking forward to hearing from you at the listening sessions, and to re-creating our program based on your input.

Adult Learning and Reflecting

Covenant Café – a less formal way to gather and talk through some of life's big questions – will be held **Thursday, March 14 beginning at 7 pm**. Join Matt Finesilver at Barriques on Atwood for a lively discussion on this month's theme, journey.

Adult Religious Exploration

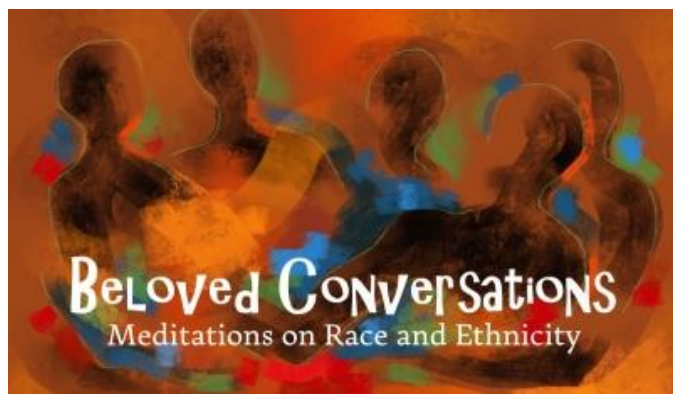
Book Discussions

Daring Democracy

The next book for discussion will be ***Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*** by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen:

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Daring-Democracy-P18213.aspx>

We'll have three discussion sessions of *Daring Democracy*, beginning in March. We will place a group order for the books, which will cost \$12 each if we order 10 or more, or \$13.50 each if we order 5 to 9 (plus shipping). Please sign up at the Religious Exploration table in the Foyer by March 3. And please let Rev. Karen know if you're interested in facilitating a session.



Beloved Conversations: A curriculum for exploring the role of race/ethnicity in individual and congregational lives

JRUUC and First Unitarian Society are excited to announce that we are teaming up to offer this opportunity to our members and friends! However, because there is so much going on in both our congregations this spring, we've decided not to launch the curriculum in March, but to postpone it until next fall.

Beloved Conversations will begin with a weekend retreat October 4 - 5! Please mark your calendars!



Administrator's Thoughts

My January was followed by a dreadful February -- a whole month of stress, feeling overwhelmed, and being in physical pain. The one bright spot was the time I spent in Tucson with my family because, while physical pain kept me from hiking, it did not keep me from enjoying lots of conversations and sunshine. But since returning home, I've felt even more stress and pain. I've had to jettison classes, events, meetings, basically everything except for work, because of not feeling well. Definitely glad that February is over.

So let's journey into a healthy March! May you find time to reflect on happy journeys and prepare for new ones.

Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth Barrett, Congregational Administrator



MidAmerica Regional Assembly April 5-7 Marriott St. Louis Airport

<https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra>

**Our Keynote Presenter will be UUA President, the
Rev. Susan Frederick Gray**

Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody, the challenges of social inequality, and tools and skills we need in order to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general "nuts and bolts" of congregational life, such as leadership, stewardship, membership, and religious education. Join us to explore, share, and worship with fellow Unitarian Universalists.

Rev. Karen will lead a workshop:

<https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra/workshops>



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY Wednesday, June 19 – Sunday, June 23

The Power of We

**In a time of great challenge and
heartbreak in our world, what does
our faith demand from us?**

At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.

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

Richard Blanco is the 2019 Ware Lecturer. Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role.

Registration and housing are open at
<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

Volunteer and Scholarship applications open March 1 also, and are due March 31. Some scholarships are only given to youth and young adults (folks ages 13-35).
<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid>

What if I cannot go to Spokane? We will be able to watch large GA events online. Consider next year, when GA will be June 24-28 in Providence, RI.

**And please note that June 23-27, 2021,
General Assembly will be in Milwaukee!**

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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.