

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 28, Number 6 — June 2019

June theme: What does it mean to be a people of beauty?

"In difficult times, carry something beautiful in your heart." -- Blaise Pascal

Check-in question: What beautiful thing do you carry in your heart?

Connections

For years, the most important things for me were knowledge and understanding. I learned about things – what they're made up of, how they're put together, how they work – and thought of beauty as secondary. As a child, I decorated my room with items that held meaning for me, not things I found beautiful in and of themselves. As a young adult, I learned about finding healing in nature, but the beauty of the forests and flowers and mountains wasn't central to that healing. As a new mother, I found the open sky and soft breezes that helped my infant settle down to be beautiful because of their impact.

I underestimated the power of beauty. I didn't recognize how it feeds me, soothes me, opens possibilities for understanding that have little to do with knowledge. The beauty of the natural landscape, of a painting or sculpture, of my child moving in play or dance, of the flowers I now keep in my living room for no reason other than to be able to look at them, all serve to open up space in my heart. Of course, I have to be paying attention to that beauty for it to work in me this way. And so the noticing of beauty becomes a practice, and the noticing what it does for me becomes a spiritual practice.

When I think about what it means to be a people of beauty, I think about some of the wonderful ways we have brought beauty into our congregation, and into our work toward peace and justice and sustainability, through art and music and movement. I wonder how we can share our practices of noticing beauty, and how that sharing might impact our understanding of our community. And I look forward to bringing beauty to the front of our collective awareness.

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

6/2 "Beauty Is...."

The Rev. Karen Armina

Our annual flower communion is a time to reflect on what we give to and receive from our community. This morning, we'll remember the context in which Norbert Capek created his flower ceremony, and the importance of beauty in dangerous times.

6/9 "You Are Beautiful"

The Rev. Karen Armina

Each and every one of us – regardless of color, shape, identity – holds beauty. This morning, we'll explore the power of the affirmation of our own beauty.

6/16 "The Beauty of All Ages"

Stephani Pescitelli

What does it mean to be a multi-generational community? With help from JRUUC youth, we'll explore ideas, stories, and sources of inspiration about shaping worship, religious education, and faith formation experiences that include and celebrate all ages and stages.

6/23 "Falling in Love"

Doug Erickson

Three JRUUC members will share a personal story related to June's theme of beauty. The service is inspired by poet Mary Oliver's encouragement to "Love yourself."

6/30 "The Power of We"

The Rev. Karen Armina

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association, and is made up of five days of worship, learning, and UUA business. Rev. Karen is attending GA online this year, and will offer her reflections on that experience.



June 5 at 7 pm

Join Rev. Karen for a time of quiet reflection.

Minister's Availability in June

Rev. Karen is in the office at JRUC on Thursdays from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm – but will not be available June 20 because she'll be attending UUA General Assembly online sessions. She can also be found at Café Brittoli (formerly Café Zoma) on Tuesdays between 1:30 and 3:30. 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!



President's Column

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard for our congregation in the past year! Our annual meeting was May 19. We passed our new mission statement, a [deficit] budget for 2019-2020, honored our culture of appreciation, and approved a slate of nominees for the board and the nominating

committee.

The Board of Trustees for 2019-2020 are:

President: Bev Buhr, President-Elect: Marla McFadden, Treasurer: Glen Gordon, continuing Secretary: Thomas Lund, At-Large: Tom Richards, At-Large: TBD, continuing At-Large: Jean Skinner, Assistant Treasurer: Derek Peterson, Nominating Committee: Autumn Fell, Rand Hill, Susan Podebradsky. THANK YOU!!

Our Priorities for the 2019-2020 budget:

- Give Staff raises! We have a contractual agreement with Rev. Karen to compensate her at the midrange for our area, and all staff compensation has been flat for the past 2 years
- Add Paid Nursery Care = consistency for our youngest and relief for parents
- Building maintenance/cleaning for our community as well as renters and rental income
- Increase giving to Annual Program Fund (UUA and MidAmerica Region) like we previously promised
- RE for adults and young people (paid religious educator, Beloved Conversations training)
- Social Justice
- Worship: Soul Matters materials and Music

2019-2020 Budget:

Total Income = \$182,124.52

Total Expense = \$190,382.97

Difference = (-\$8258.25)

Previous year surplus funds will cover this 2019-2020 deficit.

We can NOT pass another deficit budget. Something must change!

THREE PART PLAN:

- **Have an endowment drive!**
When the endowment fund has more than the operating budget, we can draw interest from it as income.
- **Outside Fundraising!**
Raise money from outside the congregation (like a big event or a shared building partnership)
We need energy and creative solutions.
- **Membership and Visitor tracking!**

Follow up with folks we haven't seen:
visitors, engage new members, support
needs of long time members.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Peace

-Jocie



Blessed at Pridefest! June 7-9 Summerfest Grounds in Milwaukee

Local congregations are joining forces for Blessed at Pridefest 2019. Pridefest takes place at the Summerfest grounds, and this activity is in the Health and Wellness Commons tent. Volunteers are needed to welcome and invite Pridefest attendees to be blessed by local religious leaders from a variety of faith traditions! Rev. Karen will be among the clergy offering blessings.

PrideFest Milwaukee is a celebration of the culture and accomplishments of our local LGBTQ+ community. It's also three days of fun music, comedy, food, self-expression, and family-friendly activities. Come have some fun at Pridefest and help us make this happen by signing up to help out: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48acaf28a2f94-blessed>

You can find out more about PrideFest at <http://pridefest.com/>.

Blessed at Pridefest will have a fun photo station, a blessing booth, and information on churches and congregations that welcome the LGBTQ+ community as a part of our booth. Questions? Contact Rev. Karen or blessedatpridefest@gmail.com.

Financial Update

| | April 2019 | Year to date |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$11,825 | \$162,640 |
| Expenses | \$21,007 | \$154,702 |

The above numbers show that our budgetary shortfall was \$9,187 in April, leaving us a year-to-date surplus of \$7,938. That's a nice number, of course, but we still have two months to go.

Elizabeth tells me that we brought in over \$13,000 in May, but our May expenses have not all been entered yet. I remain uncertain about how we will do at the fiscal year's end (June 30), compared to our budgeted deficit of \$5,571.

It's clear that we need to increase our income. Our recently passed budget for 2019-2020 was for a deficit of \$8,258. The Board of Trustees proposed it to meet our obligations to our staff and our UU MidAmerica Region and UUA. Many very hard choices were made to reduce expenses. We have a generous congregation, but I appeal to everyone to contribute as much as possible. Other ways of increasing income are also being vigorously pursued, as outlined in Jocie's column above.

With best wishes,
John Mathis, Treasurer

Justice at JRUUC

Recent 2018-19 Share the Plate Totals

| | |
|--|-------|
| River Alliance of WI | \$239 |
| Free the 350 Black Mothers Mother's Day Fund | \$343 |

\$343 is the highest STP contribution from our congregation this year. Congratulations to all for making this happen!

The second-highest this year is \$336 to the Community Immigration Law Center.

Announcing the Annual Meeting of the Madison-area Urban Ministry (MUM) Tuesday, June 18 at 6 pm at

The Spark Building, 821 E. Washington

We will be meeting on the 8th floor which has a beautiful view of the City. Our agenda includes election of Board Members, an Annual Report and a presentation on our new Mission, Vision and Values that came from our strategic planning process over the past year. We hope you can join us!
Linda Ketcham, Executive Director of
Madison-area Urban Ministry, 608-256-0906.

Social Justice through healthy food! An Easy and FUN volunteer opportunity for all ages begins Saturday, July 6

Every year JRUUC volunteers to help the Community Action Coalition for South Central WI collect left over or donated food from vendors at the Saturday downtown Dane County Farmers Market. The coordinator says, "With the help of your team and other gleaning volunteers, these generous vendors donated over 14,600 pounds of locally grown and produced foods to CAC's food bank in 2018. These donations were then distributed to dozens of food pantries and meal sites in the Dane County area. Without your help on the square, of course, we would not have been able to receive or distribute these donations. I want to thank you, sincerely, on behalf of CAC's Foods Division and all those who received the produce and other goods from the market."

Everyone is welcome to help, so bring your friends and kids for these easy 75-minute volunteer opportunities. We gather together at the State Capitol building on the East Washington side around 11:45 am - noon. We all wear CAC vests as identification and split up into four groups, each with a cart and a quadrant of the market. **Our dates for this season are: July 6, August 24, October 5, and November 2.** We need 8-12 volunteers each day and you can volunteer for as many as you want. Please sign up here:

<https://doodle.com/poll/p8k6zmaupgsn7p2p> or contact Jocie Luglio at 442-8814 or jocie.jruuc@gmail.com.

Many Hands Work Day **Saturday, June 29, 9 am – 1 pm**

There will be projects for all ages and abilities. Please come and help maintain your building! Contact Kelly Kearns at kearns@uwalumni.com If you have questions.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

We've received the report from our RE consultant, Tracy Beck, and by the time this newsletter goes to print, our Transition Team will have met once. We encourage you to review the report, which was sent out via email from Rev. Karen Sunday, May 26. Send Karen your thoughts and questions you'd like the Transition Team to consider as we decide on the shape of our program.

In related news, we're thrilled that the budget approved by the congregation last week included money to pay a nursery care provider! We're looking forward to hiring that person, and providing consistency to this important part of our ministry.

Summer kids RE needs YOU!

Do you have a skill to share like yoga, juggling, drumming, gardening, or bird watching?

Do you have stories to share about your work or your travels or your hobbies?

Do you like getting to know all the people in our community?

Do you like to read fun books and hear good stories and maybe do an art project?

Would you like to be a helpful assistant to someone else leading kids?

Sign up now to lead or assist with our kids and youth one Sunday this summer! We need two adults per Sunday to be with our preschoolers through teenagers. Leaders and kids usually leave service after the message for all ages, gather and light a chalice and do a check-in, listen to readings and do activities and have a snack. Groups can go outside weather permitting. Curriculum and resources are available for anyone who wants to have more structure. Playing games or sharing your skills and joy is also wonderful.

Please sign up **here** (on page 2) or go to: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d-NJMZJzaELf0FYJnj12Bo5gb-46Pu6mAX8Daxv2lnI/edit>

Contact Jocie Luglio with questions: jocie.jruuc@gmail.com or 608-442-8814.



June Beauty In Music

"Beauty's State of Clarity" by James Flaherty

Beauty is not decorative. It touches us deeply, dissolves our conscious control, and connects us to levels of our being well beyond our day-to-day concerns. Beauty pierces open a sharp clear space in which we directly encounter the immediacy of our experience. We know ourselves at that moment as beauty.

William Blake, who wrote the lyric for this month's hymn of the month, speaks of a beholder!

"To See the World"

To see the world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wildflower,

Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour.

We here have all experienced the incredible beauty of **Everett Trechter's** talent and musical offerings. Flower Communion, June 2, will be a bittersweet day this year, as we send off, both Everett, and **Elizabeth Barrett**, to other paths and adventures. Please make time for expressions of farewell and gratitude for the special work they have done here at James Reeb UUC. The choir is preparing Elizabeth Alexander's **"Where There is Light in the Soul"** and **"The Waking"** by Giselle Wyers (not to be missed!)



Soul Matters *Beauty*

Heather's Picks from June Soul Matters

"There is a Pleasure in the Pathless Woods"

by Lord George Byron

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, There is a rapture on the lonely shore, There is society where none intrudes, By the deep Sea, and music in its roar: I love not Man the less, but Nature more, From these our interviews, in which I steal From all I may be, or have been before, To mingle with the Universe, and feel. What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.



Notice your feet!

They're Beautiful!

There's a beloved poem by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda about a pair of his socks. In this and other poems, he brings the ordinary things around us to life, helping us see how they so clearly carry the memories and meanings of our lives. Religion does the same. It tells us that these ordinary objects are not just background but beautiful partners. They don't just enhance our relationship with the world and each other; they are among the most important relationships we have. They are fellow journeyers in and of themselves.

"Ode to Things" by Pablo Neruda:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tz82ikSllKo>

"Ode to My Socks" by Pablo Neruda:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GOkypeafdM>

"Ode to the Watermelon" by Pablo Neruda:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRTXVYGqT_k

A Personal Reflection on Neruda and "our things":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRiCUqi-4Y4>

This a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before. **Maya Angelou**

Heather Yonker, Music Director



Administrator's Thoughts

Beauty, our June theme, has been a source of joy most of my life. I notice beauty easily, especially in the natural world. Some of you may have noticed that almost every month for eleven years, the small image next to the title of this newsletter is a flower, tree, or snowflake – three of my favorite things.

I visit Olbrich Gardens once a month spring through fall to enjoy whatever is blooming. Trees are sacred to me – each one different, each one special in its own way. And snowflakes! Remember back in the 1980s when scientists discovered that each snowflake is not necessarily unique because the ice crystals can only form certain patterns? That information only added to my enjoyment of snow.

Last month, I mentioned that I've been having some health problems. I had abdominal surgery May 16 and spent the night in the hospital because my anesthesiologist and my surgeon decided that the combination of suspected sleep apnea and strong pain meds could be dangerous. Dr. Bills said that I could die in my sleep. Obviously, I was absolutely fine, but now have a cute device for practicing deep breaths and a referral for an eventual sleep study. Thank goodness, my mysterious health problems are no longer so mysterious!

Hope to see many of you at Reeb Sunday, June 2!

Elizabeth Barrett, Congregational Administrator

The East Breeze is taking a summer hiatus!

As we navigate our office staffing transition, your JRUC news will continue to come to your inbox weekly. In July and August, the weekly email will communicate **all** there is to communicate, and we won't be producing a monthly newsletter. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we explore the possibilities for our office staff. If you have questions or comments on Reeb communications, please talk with Rev. Karen or Bev Buhr, who are leading the Office Transition Team.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our Wider UU World

General Assembly of Congregations, June 2019

Wednesday evening, June 19 through

Sunday morning, June 23

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways. This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We. Or sign up as an online delegate, as Rev. Karen is doing this year, and attend meetings and workshops from wherever you are. There is financial assistance available to help someone attend online.

For Program highlights, go to:

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

For information on the GA agenda, including a proposed statement of conscience on "Our Democracy Uncorrupted," go to

<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/business-agenda>



Streamed GA Events for Everyone! **<https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>**

Offsite registration is NOT required to live stream the following events from Spokane. **The times listed here are Madison time – because Spokane is two hours behind us.**

Wednesday, June 19

- General Assembly Welcoming Celebration 9:00 – 10:00 pm

Thursday, June 20

- Worship, Opening, Framing 10:30 – 11:30 am
- Service of the Living Tradition 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Friday, June 21

- Worshipful Start 10:30 – 11:00 am.
- General Session I 11:00 – 2:00 pm
- Synergy Bridging Worship 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
- Ware Lecture 9:30 – 10:30 pm

Saturday, June 22

- Worshipful Start 10:30 – 11:00 am
- General Session II 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Closing Ceremonies 9:00 – 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 23

- Sunday Morning Worship Noon – 1:30 pm

And be sure to attend Rev. Karen's worship service Sunday, June 30, which will be all about our UU General Assembly.

Looking ahead, the June 2020 General Assembly will be in Providence RI. And be sure to note that our 2021 General Assembly will be on the far, far East side of Madison –

June 23-27, 2021 in Milwaukee WI!

Save the date



JRUUC Campout at Lake Farm Park!

**Saturday afternoon, September 14
through Sunday morning, September 15**
Join Reeb members and friends at the group campground at Lake Farm Park. Stay the whole time or just come for dinner Saturday.



Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Balkhī, also known simply **Rumi** (September 30, 1207 –December 17, 1273), was a 13th-century Persian poet, jurist, Islamic scholar, theologian, and Sufi mystic originally from Greater Khorasan.

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James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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- ❖ The JRUUC *East Breeze* Newsletter will be on hiatus for the summer. Check your email and our website <https://jruuc.org> to stay informed. Our Sunday services will continue at 10 am every Sunday.