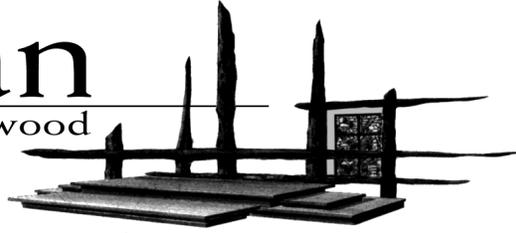


# Unitarian

## Society of Ridgewood



Dear Friends,



**From the  
Minister's Mailbox**

Having left my previous congregation at the end of June and anticipating my start with you all very soon, I have spent this past month in a state in which I have not found myself in the last four years: without significant congregational obligation. And so, thus far, my summer has involved some weekend trips away, juggling day camps, endless laundry as the twins learn to use the potty, some warm sunny days by the pool, some lazy hours watching television, some hard work for a local school on whose Board I serve, and the normal business of being a daughter, mother, and friend.

I have largely steered clear of the addictive and constant news cycle; normally, as a minister in the throes of a congregational year, I don't want to miss a thing. But this summer off, I have tried to embrace a slightly less plugged-in existence. Though even attempting to steer clear one cannot escape the realities of what is going on. Between special counsels and tweetstorms and health care bills and immigration reforms and bans and arctic ice breaking off and so much more; with racism and misogyny and prejudice in full swing, heightened by failures to convict and by the strange weather this summer has brought; with all that is happening in and to our world, even the most successful ostrich must have some understanding of the challenges we are facing.

I learned recently that an ostrich is not actually burying its head in the sand. An ostrich digs a hole to lay its eggs in, and when it puts its head in the hole, it is checking the eggs and turning them over. It is not about hiding, it is about tending to new life. What humans have historically perceived as avoidance is in fact caring for the next generation and ensuring its safety.

There is a lot of work to be done in this world, work that we will partner in facing head on when we come together starting August 1. But we will not just come together to work outwardly on climate change, racism, misogyny, and all the other things that stand in the way of the world we dream about. We will also come together to nourish each other and nurture the future, by looking inward, by solidifying the ground we walk on, by cultivating a sense of home and a sense of shared identity.

The work of bettering the world, ensuring the future, can look very different in different moments. I hope that you have found ways this last month to build hope, to work for what may yet be.

As we move through this final month of summer, before we gather once more in September, may we continue to find our balance between sticking our heads down to tend to what lies ahead and lifting our eyes to look straight into what is so that we can work to change it.

And may you enjoy some lazy summer days with those you love.

Blessings,  
Rev. Sarah



I hope that everyone has been enjoying the summer. Although I am a bit shocked that, as I am writing this column, July is almost over, we have been having a nice time.

The board has been focusing on a few important topics during the summer months:

- Recruiting members of our congregation to fill key positions
- Improving our external communications
- Preparing for Rev. Sarah's arrival
- Finding a new Director of Religious Education

We need volunteers to fill the following very important positions. A board member may have already or might be reaching out shortly to ask for your help. If you have not heard from anyone (we certainly can't talk to everyone in the entire congregation) but are interested, please let us know. These are important positions that are essential to the operation of our congregation. Please be generous with your time and talent and consider stepping up. If you are uncertain about what it takes to perform the duties of one of these positions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Buildings and Grounds Co-chair | - Fellowship Feast Co-chairs    |
| - Membership Council Chair       | - Annual Budget Drive Co-chairs |
| - Service Auction Co-chairs      | - Caring Committee Chair        |

As I am writing this newsletter column, the board has received a recommendation for a new DRE from our search committee, which was made up of the following individuals:

- Bill Belknap
- Stephanie Brennan
- Laura Krag
- Judd Seals

I thank them for their time and for following a very deliberate process to arrive at their recommendation. We were very fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to choose from three very qualified candidates. We will be sharing more information about our new DRE soon.

I look forward to seeing everyone in September when we start a new chapter in the life of our congregation. We hope to have a great turnout on September 10 to hear Rev. Sarah deliver her first address and to meet our new Director of Religious Education.

Rob Willis

#### **News from the Office**

Hope you are enjoying your summer! Summer hours end on Tuesday, **September 5th**. The office will be open each day during the summer from 9-12 p.m.

## NEWS FROM

GA  '17

To watch the livestream of this year's General Assembly in June was to have a special opportunity to witness and affirm the leadership of many people of color in our denomination who are modeling the work we UUs must do to dismantle our legacy of institutional racism. Those leaders at GA demonstrated the persistence, vulnerability and grace which will be required of us all.

This year I was an offsite delegate to GA. Anyone can watch the livestream of business meetings and worship services. I've done that for years, but being a delegate this year meant I could vote. It was a historic election this year because all three presidential candidates were women and the winner would become the first-elected female president of the UUA. Our new president is the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. She has most recently served as lead minister of the UU Congregation of Phoenix. In Arizona she was a leader of the UU response to anti-immigrant laws and then assumed a key leadership role in the 2012 Justice General Assembly. Since her election her first public statement on behalf of the UUA denounced the Supreme Court decision upholding the Trump travel ban. One way to be aware of future statements she makes as well as other news of the UUA is to follow Unitarian Universalist Association on Facebook.

**Kris Henrickson**

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I had the great pleasure of attending the 2017 General Assembly. Upon being asked to write my thoughts about the experience all I could think about was how daunting a task this would be considering how jam-packed the four and a half days were. The GA 2017 theme, was "Resist and Rejoice," dedicated to awakening and deepening UU's commitment to working in solidarity with people on the margins. The GA was celebrated with music, dance, and remembrance themes. The first night, called the Welcoming Celebration included over 4,000 Unitarians worldwide who danced and clapped to the music of the brass band and reveled in the beauty of the Mardi Gras suits influenced by Native American ceremonial apparel. The night then continued with a parade of hundreds of colorful, themed, banners representing hundreds of UU churches across the country.

During the week there was plenty of worship and music; business and social justice events, individual seminars and courses (which I especially loved) and meeting up with membership professionals and administrators from other UU organizations.

My two favorite events was joining in the Public Witness #Love Resists Rejoicing for Sanctuary and Solidarity and listening to the Ware Lecture. Click [here](#) to watch the #Love Resists public event and let me know if you see me!

As mentioned above, my other favorite was hearing the Ware Lecture by Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, AL and author of the book entitled *Just Mercy*. To say Mr. Stevenson is an amazing speaker is an understatement. Here are a few highlights from his lecture: "Get proximate to the poor, the excluded, neglected, and abused; change the narratives that underlie racism and other inequalities; stay hopeful about creating justice; and be willing to do uncomfortable things". He has spent much of his life in proximity to the poor, neglected, and abused. Visiting a death-row prisoner to inform him that he would not be executed in the upcoming year led Mr. Stevenson to find passion in studying law and helped him identify his life's work.

**Ann Pareti**

NEWS FROM



# GA '17

## General Assembly 2017 – Thoughts and Reflections

I have had the privilege of serving for almost 6 years as a USR delegate to the UUA General Assembly. This year I could not attend in New Orleans, however I was able to serve as off-site delegate. It was a different experience and I missed the interaction with the other UUs from all over the country, however, the offsite delegates became a community. As always GA was a crowded 4 ½ days with lots of wonderful services and important, moving and spiritual work happening during the General Sessions.

The area of focus for GA was to gain an understanding about how the UUA was moving forward after the acknowledgement of white supremacy in UUA hiring practices and within its culture. As most of you know, that led to the appointment of 3 interim co-presidents, people of color, to lead the UUA until GA. The co-presidents were Leon Spencer, Rev. Sofía Betancourt, and Rev. William G. Sinkford. The work of the co-presidents is truly inspirational and I offer the 2 videos for your viewing of their report at:

(<http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2017/business/i>) and reflection ([http://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-copresidents-reflection?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+uuworldGA+%28UU+World+%3A+General+Assembly+coverage%29](http://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-copresidents-reflection?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+uuworldGA+%28UU+World+%3A+General+Assembly+coverage%29)).

The UUA Board of Trustees announced that they have reaffirmed a commitment of \$5.3 million to Black Lives of UU. \$300,000 was given immediately and the board committed to guaranteeing BLUU another \$5 million in long-term funding for its efforts to support Black Lives UU and expand their role and visibility within the faith. USR was one of the congregations nationwide that had a white supremacy Sunday in the spring. Further context for the need for BLUU including the history of the Black Affairs Council of the late 1960's can be seen in the video of the BLUU leaders discussing their work.

(<http://smallscreen.uua.org/videos/ga2017-203-black-lives-uu-report>). One of the quotes that stood out for me was, "It is our culture, not our theology that is the obstacle for people of color."

Other business that was important included the passing of the Economic Inequality Statement of Conscience, the vote for the first elected woman president of the UUA, The Bridging Ceremony, the Ware Lecture by Bryan Stevenson (author of "Just Mercy"), LGBTQIA conversation, the BLUU report at:

(<http://smallscreen.uua.org/videos/ga2017-203-black-lives-uu-report>) and the appointment of the Commission on Institutional Change. Our own Mary Byron is one of its members.

**Carol Loscalzo**

## NEWS FROM

## GA '17



New Orleans 2017 was my second UUA General Assembly serving as the Senior Business Manager for the Youth Caucus. Having this role meant that I spent the majority of my time either in the Youth Caucus room leading and participating in workshops or in General Sessions with the youth delegates. I'm sure that adults have a lot of fun at GA too, but some of my favorite moments from this General Assembly were the ones in which the youth community found unique ways to be both playful and spiritual. As the Business Manager, it was my job to help engage youth with the business happening at GA. I led a workshop in which I facilitated a discussion between youth delegates and the three presidential candidates. However, we first played a re-sounding game of UU-themed jeopardy to help break the ice and humanize the presidential candidates- turns out, some of them are competitive! Laughing and playing together then allowed us to have a thoughtful and candid discussion in which youth asked tough questions and engaged in honest discussion about the future of our faith. To keep us busy during General Sessions, we also played several rounds of General Session Bingo, which kept us ever vigilant for stereotypical GenSesh happenings, such as typos in the closed captionings or procedural mistakes during debates. Little playful activities like this served to build community and conversation. I had a great time meeting youth from all over the country and reuniting with friends I hadn't seen in over a year.

This was also a big General Assembly for me because I participated in the Synergy Bridging service with around sixty other UU youth who were all making the same transition into Young Adulthood. It is an incredible feeling to be held and affirmed by a room filled with thousands of UUs! I know that my relationship with Unitarian Universalism will change drastically when I go to college, but as I looked out into the crowd, and at my peers around me, I was reminded that wherever life may take me, there is a spiritual community waiting to welcome me, should I choose to seek it out.

Hannah Rigdon

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL



### First Wednesday Brown-Bag Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **August 2, 2017** to be hosted by Dorothy Neff at 1:00 p.m. at her home. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please R.S.V.P. to let her know that you are coming and to let her give you directions if needed. All are welcome.

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

### Upcoming Services

- August 6th **“Home” - Rev. Edward Frost**  
That little alien creature in the film, “E.T.,” brought millions to tears as he gazed up to the distant planets plaintively crying. “Home, home.” “Home” is one of those most evocative words in our language which, when we hear it, summons a surge of sounds, and sights, and smells, voices, places and feelings. Poets have mined the word as productively — with quantity if not always with quality — as they have other words such as “love” and “mother”. But, O My, can we go home again? Musician: Ron Levy, piano
- August 13th **“10% More Compassionate” - Shari Halliday-Quan**  
Compassion is a fleeting, fickle thing. We often struggle to know what the compassionate thing to do would be exactly, and even when we think we know, most of us struggle to practice more compassion in our daily lives. But what if we were just a little more compassionate? How about 10% more compassionate? Musician: Ron Levy, piano
- August 20th **Heidi Swarts - Details will be included in weekly eblast**  
Musician: Michael Caldwell, piano
- August 27th **Mary Tiebout - Details will be included in weekly eblast**  
Musician: Ron Levy, piano



Hey, did you know you can follow the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram? And, we now we have our own Meetup page as well! Click on links below and please “like” our posts and feel free to comment on the wonderful happenings here at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood!

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/UURidgewood>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/uuridgewood/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/uuridgewood/>

Meetup:

<https://www.meetup.com/The-Unitarian-Society-of-Ridgewood/>

And of course, you can always find news about upcoming Sunday services, events and social action news on our website:

<http://www.uuridgewood.org/>



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### New Jersey's proposed Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement (REIS) Bill



Many of us at USR signed letters to Governor Christie asking that he approve the pending REIS legislation. He has acted by requesting that the bill be STRENGTHENED (in his conditional veto statement). His requested amendments would require an analysis of the public safety impact of criminal sentencing legislation along with the racial and ethnic impact statements originally required by the bill. The legislature still needs to approve the final language.

New Jersey will be the fifth state to pass a law requiring policymakers to consider the racial and ethnic impact of certain policies and NJ will be the first slate to require the broader public safety analysis. If written well it will add to the information legislators and the public will have to effectively consider the merits of sentencing legislation.

Thanks very much to the many at USR who helped to get this done. Keep checking the Action Table at coffee hour for other opportunities as they arise.

REPRODUCTIVE  
JUSTICE

### Reproductive Justice Committee – All Welcome

The Reproductive Justice Committee has scheduled its first meeting of the 2017-18 year on Sunday, September 17 at 11:30 a.m. after the service in Reeb conference room. We invite anybody with an interest in “Repro Justice” to join us. Due to the current national climate, this year we will continue to focus on preventing the further erosion of reproductive rights, including ensuring access to safe abortion care (maintaining the physical and emotional safety of women, their partners and clinic staff inside and outside the facilities), the increasing maternal death rates in the United States (in particular the astonishingly high rate of maternal deaths in communities of color), and issues related to the rights and dignity of incarcerated women in NJ.

The first event of the year will be on Thursday, October 26 and is co-sponsored with several organizations including Northern NJ NOW. We will be showing “EQUAL MEANS EQUAL”, an unflinching look at how women are treated in the U.S. today. For further information contact Susanne Fuhrman or Carol Loscalzo.

### Save the Date

Come see the Academy Award nominated film “I Am Not Your Negro” (built on the words of James Baldwin, the much-honored Black author of the mid-to-late 20th century) on September 22nd. See flyer on Page 11.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Plate Collection application deadline – August 30, 2017

In 2009, the USR Board granted the Social Responsibilities Council (SRC) approval to use the Offertory Collection at Sunday services to collect money for social justice causes, as determined by the SRC. The deadline to submit applications for the next cycle is Wednesday, **August 30**. The Council will consider all requests made by members and friends of the USR. The cause should be consistent with the mission of USR to be "a beacon of justice and love in the world". The applications are on the USR website. Please complete the form and submit it to the office or send to Carol Loscalzo. Questions: ask Carol or any member of the SRC. All social justice chairs and co-chairs are on the Council.

### 2017 Citizens for Swimming

In just a week we will kick off our 50th year of sharing summer fun and swimming safety with kids from CAMP YDP in Paterson! Citizens for Swimming 2017 will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday from August 8th until August 24th, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

#### **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

This year we will host 90 children, ages 3-12, who are day campers at CAMP YDP. We will spend about \$110 per child for our 9-day swim program. This includes bus transportation to and from Paterson (by far our biggest expense), discounted Graydon Pool admission, and supplies like bathing suits, beach towels, and beach toys. Swim lessons are provided every day by the Ridgewood YMCA at no cost to us.



#### **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- Make an online donation: <https://www.youcaring.com/citizensforswimming-850455>
- **Donate supplies** - Check out our [Amazon Wish List](#), hit the sales racks yourself, or clean out your closets. We need suits in all children's sizes, new or gently used beach towels, beach toys, inexpensive goggles, and sunscreen. Supplies can be dropped off at USR or at Graydon Pool.
- **Volunteer** - we need all kinds of volunteers. Email us at [c4s.usr@gmail.com](mailto:c4s.usr@gmail.com) for more information. And please come down and visit us when we are at the pool. With Citizens for Swimming, seeing is believing!
- **Like and Follow** our [Facebook page](#), and share it with your friends!

We do appreciate everyone who has supported this great program for the last half century — especially you!

Thank you,  
Dawn Walter and the Citizens for Swimming Board

For more information check out our website: <http://www.uridgewood.org/citizens-for-swimming-c4s/>

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



### It's Family Promise Time Again Sunday/Monday of Labor Day Weekend

Can you cook? Stay over night? Amuse children? Be amused by children? We need you! Cooks come at 5:00 p.m., stay until maybe 8:30 p.m. when things are cleaned up. Overnight people can come anytime before 9:00 p.m. or so, and are welcome to help out earlier.

Family Promise is a private non-profit that cares for working homeless families right here in Bergen County, until they get back on their feet, check out the website at [www.bergenfamilypromise.org](http://www.bergenfamilypromise.org).

We must provide dinner Sunday and Monday night of Labor Day weekend and also overnight hosts for both of those nights. If you're back because school is about to start, especially Monday night, that would be great.

E-mail or call Betsy Longendorfer if you're interested in volunteering.

Thanks and have a happy summer!  
Betsy Longendorfer



### Environmental Justice

About Environmental Justice: After all, a clean and healthy environment is important to us all, but lately that simple concept is threatened. A quick look at human history, and current events tells us our industrial and life style activities ultimately are the reason for the threat. The proof is in measuring the effects of human activities on climate change – something our current federal administration won't even admit exists. I guess it's up to us UU's and other like-minded people to take action. And so, in this post November of 2016 election era, we are going to re-organize the Environmental Justice Committee. To offer help, information or ideas, contact Peter Orsini. Join Us!



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE PALISADES



## WHAT DO WE DO NOW ABOUT HEALTHCARE?

Will *you* be priced out of getting medical care? Obamacare expanded coverage to millions but millions are still not covered at all or are underinsured and costs are going up, up, up! Congress is looking for creative ways of making things worse! Come to a discussion of "What Do We Do Now About Healthcare?" Hear Dr. William Thar and Dr. Winthrop Dillaway of the Physicians for a National Health Program, followed by Q&A and discussion.

Sponsored by the Racial & Social Justice Team of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palisades and The Social Responsibilities Council of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood.

**AUGUST 2, 2017 / 7:00 PM**

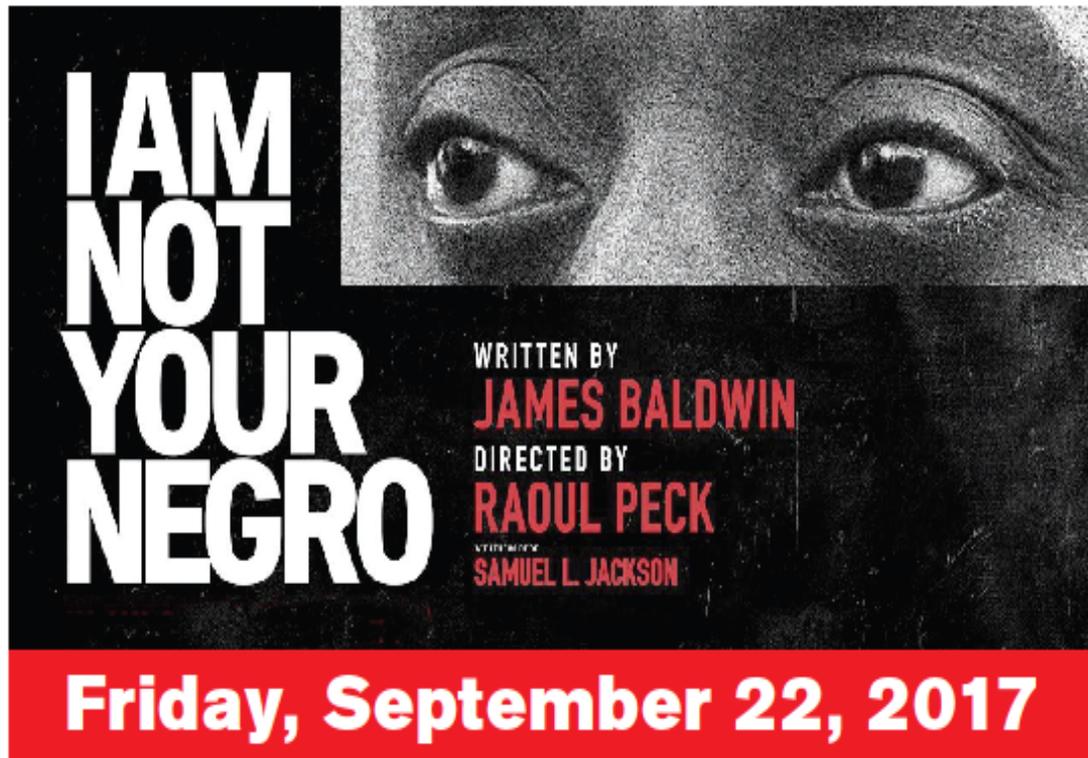
THE LYDECKER HOMESTEAD, 228 GRAND AVENUE, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631

Meetup.com/Unitarian-Universalist-Congregation-of-the-Palisades

[WWW.UUCPALISADES.ORG](http://WWW.UUCPALISADES.ORG)

OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

**SAVE THE DATE FOR AN IMPORTANT FILM PRESENTATION**



**I AM  
NOT  
YOUR  
NEGRO**

WRITTEN BY  
**JAMES BALDWIN**

DIRECTED BY  
**RAOUL PECK**

WITH  
**SAMUEL L. JACKSON**

**Friday, September 22, 2017**

**7:00pm** (film begins at 7:15pm)

**ABOUT THE FILM:** Master filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, *Remember This House*. The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, using Baldwin's original words and flood of rich archival material. *I Am Not Your Negro* is a journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter. It is a film that questions black representation in Hollywood and beyond. And, ultimately, by confronting the deeper connections between the lives and assassination of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., Baldwin and Peck have produced a work that challenges the very definition of what America stands for.

<p><b>LOCATION:</b> Unitarian Society of Ridgewood – Fellowship Room 113 Cottage Place Ridgewood, NJ 07450</p> <p><i>Child Care provided with 2 weeks notice. Please email Ann Pareti at usr.membership1@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><b>FILM SERIES 2017-18 SPONSORS:</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="592 1522 803 1669" style="text-align: center;">  <p>UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD UNITED IN DIVERSITY</p> </div> <div data-bbox="836 1564 1071 1627" style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Central Unitarian Social Action Team</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1104 1522 1331 1669" style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD</b></p> </div> </div>
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**“Come for the film, Stay for the Discussion!”**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 <b>10:00 Service</b></p>	<p>7 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>8 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 <b>10:00 Service</b></p>	<p>14 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 <b>10:00 Service</b></p>	<p>21 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 <b>10:00 Service</b>  <b>1:00 p.m./Anderson Refinishing Floors</b></p>	<p>28 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

Editor/Membership Administrator: Ann Pareti 201-444-6225  
usr.membership1@gmail.com

The Rev. Sarah Lenzi, Minister 201-444-6225  
usr.minister@gmail.com

James Forrest, Youth Group Adv. 480-754-9039  
cucusryouthgroup@gmail.com

Indiadora Nicholson, RE Assistant 201-444-6225  
usr.reassistant@gmail.com

Ron Levy, Music Director 201-444-6225  
levynotes@aol.com

Donna Barrett, Finance Manager 201-444-6225  
usr.finance1@gmail.com

Chandrika Chowdhry, Secretary 201-444-6225  
usr.secretary@gmail.com

**Society Office Hours: 9:00—3:00, Monday-Friday**  
Fax 201-444-9838  
Website www.uuridgewood.org

#### Board of Trustees

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Sally Lewis, Vice President	Laura Krag, Trustee
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Bernie Josefsberg, Secretary	Julie McMurray, Trustee
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## Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

### Mission Statement

Growing in mind and spirit,  
We act together as a beacon for justice and love,  
Transforming self and world. Adopted May 17, 2009

### Invitation to Participate

Welcome! For over a hundred years this Society has been a place where free-thinking, broad-minded persons have come to participate in a vibrant, liberal religious community. In fulfillment of our current congregational mission we create a safe and loving environment that supports personal growth and provides ways for each individual to make a difference in the larger community.

We offer a stimulating Sunday service, an excellent religious education program for children and youth, and many educational, spiritual and social activities for adults. Every Sunday our Social Responsibilities Council has a table set up during Social Hour with information about social justice and charitable opportunities.

### Anti-Racist Congregation

This Society is an [anti-racist congregation](#) committed to reflecting this commitment in the life and culture of the entire organization. Adopted May, 2002.

### Living the Welcoming

We have been a Welcoming Congregation since 1998, supporting the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people.

### Safe Congregation

This Society is a Safe Congregation where practices and procedures serve to ensure all members, friends, adults, children and youth are treated with respect and protected from harassment and abuse.



113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



**NOW accepting articles for August 24th deadline**  
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com