



The time of the deepest darkness is upon us. But before we know it we'll be climbing into the light again. Many find this time of year difficult; the darkness can be oppressive, it can be hard to move through the holidays without loved ones we've lost, the cold can creep into our bones.

But there can be another side to the story. The winter time gives us a chance to brighten the darkness with magical lights that seem to float. It gives us a chance to reconnect with friends and family and strangers in new and open hearted ways. It gives us a chance to warm ourselves by firesides around kitchen tables with hot cocoa.

**From the
Minister's Mailbox**

This time of year offers us a chance to pause together and remember what is good. I know it can be hard to feel festive when the world seems so problematic, and this may be a moment for fake it till you make it. And we have lots of opportunities to help!

We have ways you can give back by helping buy gifts for families in need. We have services to celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas. On Christmas Eve we will have a service in the morning and another in the evening, both filled with song.

However you want to participate in the life of the congregation this holiday season, you will be welcomed with open arms.

May this season bring you joy and love!
Rev. Sarah

Staff News

Please be advised the office will be closed for the holidays from Monday, December 25, 2017 until Monday, January 1, 2018. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Happy Holidays!!!!



Reflections

The holiday season is one of my favorite times of year. It is a time of celebration, deep reflection, and anticipation. It can be a time of stress and also a time of gratitude. What I especially love about this season is just how full it is in its invitation for deeper family connection.

At the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood in the month of December we have many great opportunities for children and adults alike to connect with family and with one another. On Friday, **December 1st** at 6 p.m. you and your family are invited to gather in Fellowship and then walk as a congregation to the tree lighting in Downtown Ridgewood. In Sunday School the classes begin to wrap up their first semester and transition towards the “January Justice” program. On Sunday, **December 24th** all are invited to a special holiday service at 10 a.m. and the annual Christmas Eve Service with music beginning at 4:30 p.m.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and meaningful holiday season this December!



Happy belated thanksgiving from your youth coordinator!

There has been no lack of events in the world for our youth group to reflect upon this last month — from local incidents in our high schools to national news about harassment and power. Outside of our Sunday meetings we had our second game night of the year at the beginning of November and sent 3 youth to the CER region-wide youth con in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The month of December will bring our next youth con about youth leadership as well as our annual Christmas cookie decorating Olympics and overnight event on **December 27** at CUC. The youth group will also have our regular movie/game night on **December 1st** 6 to 10 p.m. at USR, all youth grades 9-12 are invited!

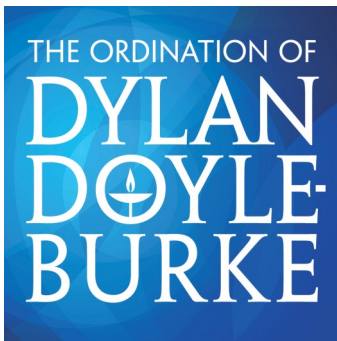
Beginning December 3rd our Sunday youth group meetings will be switching locations to Ridgewood each week. I wanted to thank all of the adult advisors in this year’s youth. Our volunteers and staff have done a lot of excellent work in the last few months to get our year off to a great start. Also thank you to all the adult volunteers in our Coming of Age program, I had the privilege of leading the group on their Boston trip last month. Thank you for the work you do!

Thanks,
James

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

December 3rd	“Racial Justice Teach-In Sunday” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi This will be a Time for All Ages service. Musician: Ron Levy, piano; Ridgewood Choral Members, Marjorie Vandervoort, Director.
December 10th	“Patience: A Difficult Discipline” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi Musician: Ron Levy, piano
December 17th	“Hope: Hanukkah” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi Musician: Ron Levy, piano
December 24th	“Carols/Pageant” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi Musician: Ron Levy, piano
Christmas Eve 4:30 Music 5:00 Service	“Fulfillment” — Multigenerational Service - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi Musician: Ron Levy, piano
December 31st	“Poetry by the Fire” - Member, Gerti Schoen Musician: Ron Levy, piano



You are cordially invited to the Ordination of Dylan Doyle-Burke into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry. The event of ordination is a unique and important marking in the formation of a Unitarian Universalist minister in which the minister is called out from the laity to hold the title of ‘Reverend.’ The ceremony is also a celebration of the years of discernment Dylan has undergone and a way to lift up the relationships that have sustained and fed him through his journey.

All are welcome on this joyous occasion!

Here are the event details: **Sunday, December 3 at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**
Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York
160 Central Park West, New York, NY

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Our thoughts and wishes are with member, Marion Jones who was brought to the hospital on November 27th with a blood clot. Please keep Marion in your thoughts.

Mark Your Calendar — Poetry by the Fire

The winter solstice is a good time to contemplate the things that ended, and the things that have come, or are to come newly into our lives. Rebirth is the word of the season. Come and join us for our annual Poetry by the Fire service on Sunday, **December 31, at 10 am.** Come and read either yours or your favorite writer's poetry. Present any poem or reading you would like, whatever the season or subject. Everything is welcome.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Society Auction

Saturday evening, **January 27, 2018** — Come and celebrate 50 years of fun and fellowship at the largest USR fundraiser!



WE NEED:

- Your auction offering -- click [here](#) to fill out the Society Auction Offering Form. Please note the offering form is due no later than **January 5th**. Items to offer might include dinners, bbq's, picnics, tickets to theatre and sporting events, vacation/getaway homes, cocktail parties. Does your company have a unique asset they would like to share, like a tour and tasting at a beer brewery or vineyard? Be creative and your generosity

will do wonders for the USR.

- Wine and cash donations for the wine pull — contact Ralph Pleasic.
- Baked goods for dessert -- contact Tae Teramoto.

Make your reservations for the night of at a cost of \$25/person. Contact Robin Ritter and let her know if you need child care.

Questions? Contact Jeff Summerville or Suzanne Willis.



Urgent Call for Volunteers

The first annual North Jersey Human Rights Film Festival fundraiser to benefit the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood is being planned for **April 27-28, 2018**. USR Members and Friends needed to volunteer and judge the films. Please contact Marshall Katzman or email usrfilmfestival@gmail.com. See flyer on Page 7.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **December 6, 2017** to be hosted by Nancy Petrie at 1 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.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

December 17th Plate Collection

C.A.M.P. Youth Development Program in Paterson will be the recipient of the December Social Justice Plate Collection. C.A.M.P. is located only 10 miles from Ridgewood in a completely different world. Paterson's Northside has been, and continues to be, a story of poverty, disinvestment, flooding, and robberies. The children served at C.A.M.P. range in age from 3 to 14 and are as delightful as any children that you know, but they lack the resources to compete with kids in more affluent communities. Their experiences do not include weekend soccer, ballet lessons, computers, tutors, overnight camp, SAT prep because they live at or below the poverty line. C.A.M.P. cannot eliminate the social inequities, but it does provide a safe environment with books and toys for the preschoolers who did not find room in the public preschool. It gives elementary age children and middle school kids the opportunity to be together after school in a supervised setting, to finish their homework and receive a free meal. The summer program expands their horizons with fieldtrips, work in a community garden, and swimming lessons at Graydon Pool. The building, the staff, the special experiences take money and USR has been a primary supporter of this struggling non-profit. This year C.A.M.P. plans to use our contribution to update the game room. Please give generously.

Bergen Unitarian Universalist Relief Group

You may remember that after Superstorm Sandy the Bergen Unitarian Universalist Relief Group was formed to raise money for victims and to do direct service in Bergen County. Now BUURG is activating to help the victims of the Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico. Partnering with other community groups, we are sponsoring a concert on **December 16th**. Click [here](#) for more information. Questions? Contact Mark Meding.

The Children's Aid and Family Services 2017 Holiday Gift Drive



Each year our congregation supports Children's Aid and Family Services by hosting a holiday gift drive for the vulnerable children and families they serve. These gifts and show of support have a tremendous impact on each and every child and the families that need to pay critical living expenses instead of purchasing holiday gifts for the family. In some instances, families make difficult decisions about how to spend their limited funds. When this happens, birthday gifts, school field trips, and holiday gifts, seen as less of a necessity, are eliminated from the budget. But to a child, that one gift can make all the difference in the world. We are looking to provide gifts for 50 children and youth this year and if you would like to participate, please see Sean Brennan at coffee hour. Deadline for the gift drive is **December 9th**.

News from C.A.M.P. YDP

Final call for tickets for the C.A.M.P. YDP luncheon fundraiser at C.A.M.P. to honor the memory of Mary Boutin, a longtime USR member, who supported C.A.M.P.'s Afterschool Program and Preschool program located in one of Paterson's poorest areas. It will be held **December 9, 2017** from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at 13-15 North 1st Street, Paterson, New Jersey. Tickets are \$50. Please RSVP by November 30th to info@campydp.org.
Sally Lewis, USR/C.A.M.P. YDP Liaison

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

First Friends Needs Our Support — Stamp Out Despair Campaign

On Sunday, **December 3rd**, we will have a table in Fellowship, after the service, which will be used to write a note within a greeting card or note card to immigrant detainees held at Hudson County Correction Center. Many detainees come from other states and do not have family visiting. Congregants and children are welcomed to the table. If you have any holiday cards or note cards you don't want please bring them.

Not ten miles from the Statue of Liberty there are hundreds of immigrants languishing in "detention". They have no access to the outside: they live in a miserable windowless warehouse. They are not permitted to have possessions or even their own clothes. One of their only pleasures is corresponding with family and friends. The problem is they can only use pre-stamped envelopes, they purchase from the detention center commissary for much more than the price you can purchase them at the post office. Many detainees have little or no money so it is difficult for them to afford the postage.

We also ask you to donate:

1. Size # 10 envelopes with Forever Postage stamps Bring to USR and put them in the container on the porch or to the service next week or the week after.
2. Make donation to First Friends and send to 53 South Hackensack Ave, 2nd floor, Kearny NJ 07032

Thanks, Peace & Justice Committee



Save the Date

The 36th annual Ridgewood and Glen Rock Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be held once again at the Ridgewood United Methodist Church on Van Neste Square in Ridgewood at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Rev. Calvin Samson, a colleague and friend of Dr. King's. The church was filled last year for an Imam from CA. Please plan to come.

SAFE CONGREGATION RESPONSE TEAM

AED/CPR Training

Time is fast approaching to register for the AED/CPR training offered by the Safe Congregation Response Team. This excellent training is free of charge for members and friends of USR. Space is limited. See flyer on page 9.

USR Book Cart

Have you noticed the USR Book Cart? It's a rolling library of worthwhile reads — Unitarian Universalist history, the Environment, Women's Issues, Race issues, Zen Meditation. Borrow and return on the honor system. Please, no donations. Thanks.



Announcing the First Annual North Jersey Human Rights Film Festival — a juried film festival to be held at The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ.

Festival Dates:

Friday April 27, 2018

Saturday April 28, 2018

A Fundraiser to benefit the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

From the time of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood's founding in 1896, social justice has been a cornerstone of our congregational life. In keeping with this tradition, the films shown at the North Jersey Human Rights Film Festival will be grounded in the principle that all people have inherent power, dignity and rights.

More festival details coming soon!

Visit our web page for up-to-date information:

www.uuridgewood.org/film-festival/

Email: usrfilmfestival@gmail.com

Entry Guidelines:

Entries may focus on any theme that fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression, including (but not limited to):

- Economic Justice
- Education Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Immigration Justice
- LGBTQI Rights
- Racial Justice
- Reproductive Justice and
- Voting Rights

Entry Deadline:

March 1, 2018

Entry fee: \$50

Entry form available on our website.

USR Members and Friends...we need you!

We are looking for judges and volunteers to help with organizing this important fundraiser. Please contact Marshall Katzman or email usrfilmfestival@gmail.com if you'd like to help!

the
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD

**SOCIETY CAFE
CONCERT SERIES
2017-18 SEASON PRESENTS...**

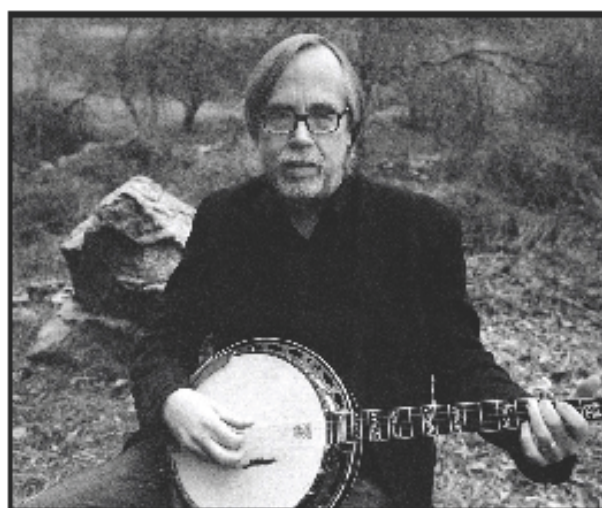


TONY TRISCHKA

Of a Winter's Night Holiday Concert

with

Tim Eriksen, Zoe Darrow, Phoebe Hunt & Dominic Leslie



Sunday, December 17th

Concert at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ

\$20 in advance via PayPal on our site:

www.societycafeconcertseries.com

\$25 at the door

\$5 at the door for ages 12-17, must be accompanied by an adult



**Please patronize
our sponsors**



SAVE THE DATE SAVE A LIFE



AED/CPR
Training Opportunity

The graphic features a red background with a white heart shape in the center. The text 'AED/CPR' is written in large white letters across the heart, and 'Training Opportunity' is written in smaller white letters below it. A white ECG line runs horizontally across the bottom of the red box. Below the red box is a dark red banner with white text.

Saturday, January 6th, 2018

Snow Date: Saturday, January 13th

FREE AED/CPR Training Opportunity

for USR Members and Friends

Certification will cover adults, children and infants

Saturday, January 6, 2018

9 am to 12 noon

(Snow Date: Saturday, January 13th)

Fellowship Room
The Unitarian Society
of Ridgewood
113 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ

To register, please email the USR secretary, Chandrika Chowdhry at usr.secretary@gmail.com or call 201-444-6225.

Email Carol Loscalzo at closcalzo2@aol.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Childcare available with two weeks notice:
email usr.dre1@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Safe Congregation Response Team

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm 6:30 Friday Night Out/RE	2
3 10:00 Service "Racial Justice Teach-In Sunday" Rev. Sarah 11:30 Reproductive Justice/Conf. Rm 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	4 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustees/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	5 7:00 Connections/ Youth Rm	6 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	7 7:00 SRC Mtg/ Conf. Rm	8 6:30 Zen Retreat/RE	9 8:30 Zen Retreat/RE
10 10:00 Service "Patience: A Difficult Discipline" - Rev. Sarah 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	11 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	12	13 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café 1:00 Brown-Bag Lunch with Minister/Fellowship	14 7:00 Racial Justice/Conf. Rm 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship	15 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm	16
17 10:00 Service "Hope: Hannukah" - Rev. Sarah 11:30 P&J/Conf. Rm 11:30 Sunday Services Comm/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 Society Café Concert/Anderson	18 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	19 7:00 Connections/ Youth Rm	20 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog 6:30 Faith Talks at the Steel Wheel	21 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	22	23
24 10:00 Service "Carols/Pageant" - Rev. Sarah 4:30 Brass Band and 5:00 Christmas Eve Service - Rev. Sarah	25	26	27 6:30 Faith Talks at the Steel Wheel	28 7:00 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	29	30
31 10:00 Service "Poetry by the Fire" - Member, Gerti Schoen						

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Fax 201-444-9838
Website www.uuridgewood.org

Board of Trustees

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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.



the
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RIDGEWOOD

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



NOW accepting articles for December 18th deadline
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com