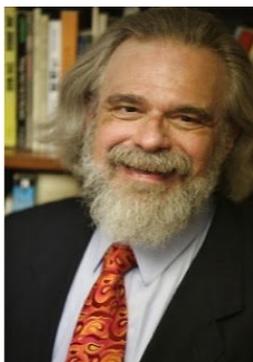
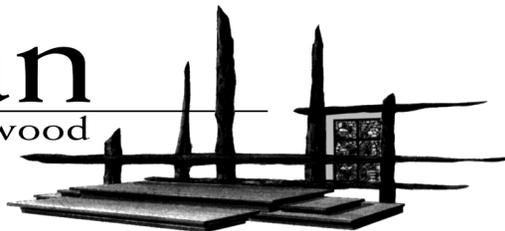


Unitarian

Society of Ridgewood



From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

Sunday, January 22nd was a great day at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. In spite of there being many tired marchers among the Society's members and friends, there was a good turnout at the Sunday service. There was much excited discussion at coffee hour. Students in the religious education program had a successful sandwich sale to raise money for their diversity in children's books project. Four individuals attended the Newcomers Brunch following coffee hour. And in the evening, the community potluck dinner drew fifty adults and a dozen children for an evening of interfaith community building. In addition to USR, there were participants from Metropolitan AME Zion Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church and the Muslim Society in Ridgewood, and a large contingent from El-Zahra Islamic Center in Midland Park.

Rob Willis welcomed our guests. After offering a meditation, I was pleased to welcome to the microphone guest speakers Mahmoud Hamza of the Muslim Society, the Rev. Mack Brandon of Metropolitan AME Zion, and Sheikh Moutaz Charaf of El-Zahra. They spoke of fears in their communities, and also of their hope. Susanne

Fuhrman. Carol Loscalzo, Jan Scerbo, and Anita Young spoke of their experiences at four of the 600 marches that took place last Saturday as part of the Women's March on January 21st.

It was gratifying to see the large turnout across the spectrum of USR members: individuals of various ages, towns, and family compositions. It was equally gratifying to see how willingly Baptists, Methodists, Muslims, UUs, and others spoke together around the table. There was great enthusiasm for getting to know each other and having the time to do so. This is how we build solidarity.

This will happen again, perhaps at USR, perhaps at another faith community's meetinghouse.

I am very excited as we move forward in the last quarter of the intentional interim ministry. In February I look forward to Religious Education Sunday, New Member Sunday, two Introduction to Unitarian Universalism classes, the start of the spring session of religious education classes for children, and a service at which DRE Johanna Seale will speak. Meanwhile, the Ministerial Search Committee continues its good and intense work.

The Unitarian Society is built to lead. This is how we lead: By reaching out to the community, especially to those who are marginalized, and by reaching inward and caring for each other as members of a freely gathered liberal religious congregation.

You, the members and friends of Unitarian Society of Ridgewood need the Society and so does the wide and diverse larger community in which we live, move, and have our being.

It is an honor to be your interim minister.

Rev Dr TJ

Minister's direct office line: 201-345-9587; Cell: 646-515-4729; Email: usr.minister@gmail.com



Reflections

I am writing to you at the end of a busy and fulfilling week, during which many of us connected with each other and our neighbors, and stood up for justice in meaningful ways. On Martin Luther King Day, we welcomed children from CAMP Y.D.P. in Paterson to join USR children and adults for a day of stories, games, food, entertainment, and connection. On Saturday, many of us marched in support of women's rights, immigrant rights, civil rights, disability rights, worker's rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, environmental justice, and nonviolence. On Sunday morning, in addition to our regular service and RE program, the children raised \$430 at their sandwich sale to buy a beautiful diversity of books to be donated to CAMP Y.D.P. On Sunday evening, we were joined by guests of many different faiths from Bergen County houses of worship for an evening of food, community, and inspiration. And... I don't know about you, but I am exhausted!

There has been a lot of talk about resistance. When we see justices that have been long-fought being dismantled, resistance is called for. Our Unitarian Universalist principles call us to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. They call us to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. They call us to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. If there was ever a time to affirm these things clearly, to promote these things with strength and volume and numbers, it is now. And, getting back to my last point, it is hard. It is tiring. It can be disappointing, frustrating, and soul-draining at times.

When there is justice work to be done (and really, isn't there always?), a regular spiritual practice can be an excellent tool. It is one component of the self-care we need to regularly tend to so that we can be emotionally, spiritually, and physically strong enough to advocate for justice with love and compassion. Starting on February 5, I will be launching my first Adult RE class, with a curriculum called "Spirit in Practice". This curriculum explores many different spiritual practices, and the intent is that you will come away from the last session with a practice that you can continue regularly at home, work, or wherever you are able. Classes will be on February 5, 12, 26 and March 5, from 3-5pm.

For those of you unable to join the class, but still wanting to learn more, I recommend you check out Scott Alexander's book [Everyday Spiritual Practice: Simple Pathways for Enriching Your Life](#). This book broadened my view of what spiritual practice actually is, and led me to reframe some of the things I was already doing in my everyday life as spiritual practice. Here's an excerpt from the book, in which Kathleen McTigue shares the folktale of Brother Bruno and the frog:

Brother Bruno was at prayer one night when he found his concentration interrupted by the loud croaking of a bullfrog. He kept trying to ignore the noise, but the harder he tried to concentrate, the more annoying the sound became. Finally he leaned out of his window and shouted, "Quiet! I'm at my prayers!" Instantly there was complete silence, as the bullfrog and every other creature obeyed his command. Brother Bruno settled back into prayer, but now he found himself even more deeply disturbed by a nagging doubt: Why would God create the bullfrog and its rasping voice unless there was something pleasing in the sound? Could it be that Bruno's own prayer sounded, to God's ears, like the arrogant croaking of another sort of frog?

Bruno could not push away this uneasiness, and so he finally leaned out his window again and gave the command, "Sing!" The throaty croak of the bullfrog again filled the air, along with all the other creatures that had fallen silent. Brother Bruno listened carefully to the sound, and to his amazement he discovered that it was beautiful. Once he no longer resisted it as noise, the joyful concert actually enriched the peacefulness of the night. With that discover, Bruno understood for the first time in his life what it really meant to pray.

- Kathleen McTigue, *Listening to Our Lives*

I will leave you with the question that embodies McTigue's spiritual practice: "Where was God in this day?" Feel free to reframe the question as you wish - one alternative McTigue offers is "Where today did I really hear the language of my life?"

In faith, Johanna

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

HONOR OUR PAST, PICTURE OUR FUTURE

Do you know about some of our past ministers?

“Liberalism, religious and otherwise, is on trial today. It is being everywhere challenged. It has many enemies who would throttle it to death. Yet it has never been more needed.” – *Rev. Milton Muder, Free Church Newsletter, Feb. 1936. USR Minister 1931-1939*

Homer Sheffer served as USR’s minister from 1939-1964. He was initially a minister in the Reformed Church (Dutch), but after nine years, asked to be tried for heresy because he felt he could not preach what was expected of him. He was condemned for heresy and then applied for a fellowship of the Unitarian ministry. He was a pacifist who refused to open USR’s doors on D-Day (June 6, 1944) and did not comment on the death of either FDR or JFK.

In 1964, prior to calling **Ken Patton** as USR’s next minister, a fellow humanist minister wrote of Patton: “I do hope you will call one of the most brilliant and effective men in the Unitarian Universalist ministry. He will be remembered longer than almost all of the rest of us in our generation.” Ken Patton described himself as not a pastor, but a writer and artist. He penned readings, responses, anthems, and hymns and wrote nearly thirty books giving religious humanism a new voice.

----The Annual Budget Drive Committee----



Planned Giving

The Planned Giving Committee would like to announce that we are once again accepting applications for grants. Due to a very generous donation last year, the amount of grant dollars has risen. This year, the amount available is \$10,000! As a reminder, the purpose of these dollars is to help support your worthy causes. In the past we have underwritten scholarships for a needy student, helped a family looking for asylum, funded a program for CAMP, and supported women’s choice organizations, among many others.

Applications are available at the main office and may be turned back in to the office or emailed directly to Jeff Cagan . The deadline for all applications is **March 15th**.

Please direct any questions to Jeff Cagan (chair). In addition, we can also help guide you if you have any questions about charitable trusts and wills for your Planned Giving goals.

2017 Fellowship Feast

Call for Talent!!!

This year’s Fellowship Feast will be held on **Saturday evening, March 18th**, and we need YOU to perform. Can you sing, dance, play an instrument, recite a poem, do a skit, tell jokes, juggle, do magic tricks? Almost anything goes! Local pianist David Maiullo, has generously offered to accompany performers on piano. Also needed are stage management types and other behind-the-scenes people to help the show run smoothly. Contact Kristen Plumley by **February 26th** if you are interested in participating. Don’t be shy – join the fun!

Fellowship Feast Coordinator Needed

USR is in need of a volunteer or two to coordinate this year’s Fellowship Feast. We have a simple, typed, manual which will walk you through, step by step, all the instructions needed to coordinate the feast. And, past coordinator, Ann Pareti, is available to answer any questions you have. Please contact Rob Willis at usr.president1@gmail.com if you are able to volunteer. Or call the office at 201-444-6225.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

UPDATE FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Town Hall, February 5, 2017: The Search Committee will inform the Congregation about the “Search Packet” that is given to prospective ministers.

Congregants have asked about the Survey results. Please click [here](#) to read the summary.

Upcoming Tasks:

- Interview pre-candidates and observe them in a neutral pulpit
- Organize Candidating Week

Now it is your turn:

- Ask yourself, “What is my responsibility in creating a welcoming environment?”
- Ask your loved ones, “Can we ‘take turns’ receiving what we yearn for and honoring others who have different needs?”
- Ask your groups or your committees, “How do we best prepare our membership, ourselves, and each other for this change?”

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL



First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon **February 1, 2017** to be hosted by Mary Mogerley at 1 p.m. at her home. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please R.S.V.P. to let her know you are coming and to get directions. All are welcome.

Welcome to the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome the following new members to the USR as of January 1, 2017: Nicole and Michael Threlfall and Lawrence Kaiser. We are so happy that you’ve joined us! Please make sure you say hello to our new members!

Unitarian Universalist Classes taught by Rev. Tony Johnson

Please join us for a two-part UU class on **February 5th and February 12th** from 11:45 to 1:00 p.m. OR one longer class on Wednesday, **February 8th** from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Email usr.membership1@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Town Hall Meeting

There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, February 5th after the service. The agenda will be dedicated to an update from the Ministerial Search Committee.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 5 | <p>Religious Education Celebration Service - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson and Johanna Seale</p> <p>At this service, the children in the religious education program will share what they learned during "Justice January" about diversity in children's literature, as well as some of the books from the 1000 Black Girl Book List, purchased with money they raised. Musicians: USR Children's Choir; Magha Sehgal, soprano; Ron Levy, piano</p> |
| February 12 | <p>Life in the Belly of a Paradox - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson (New Member Ceremony)</p> <p>On this Sunday when we welcome and celebrate new members of the Society, the Message will explore the definition of a religious life. These words of William Lawrence Sullivan (1872-1935) constitute a good starting point: <i>Here is a noble paradox: religion tries to satisfy man [sic] while its essential purpose is to make him [sic] dissatisfied.</i> Sullivan, who transitioned from Roman Catholic priest to Unitarian minister lived this paradox. Musician: Ron Levy, piano</p> |
| February 19 | <p>I Would Not Stultify Myself - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson</p> <p>Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was a slave, a free black, a preacher, a leading abolitionist, an advocate for women's rights, and a religious liberal. This Message will focus on Douglass's life and, especially, how his ideas about religion changed through his life. Some would include Douglass in the Humanist pantheon. This is a service in celebration of Black History Month. Musicians: Richard Hobson, baritone; Ron Levy, piano.</p> |
| February 26 | <p>Stages of Faith Development - Johanna Seale</p> <p>As Unitarian Universalists, we are all on a lifelong quest for truth and meaning. Here at USR, that begins with our preschoolers. This service will illuminate the typical stages of faith development everyone goes through, which will ultimately support our own search for truth and meaning, and help us support the young ones among us on their journey. Musician: Ron Levy</p> |

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We are saddened to announce the death of Don Campolo's mother in January.

We send our condolences to Phread Ayres for the recent loss of his father.

We were so sorry to hear about the loss of Marijan Por's father last week. Our thoughts are with the families.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Hello from your Youth Coordinator,

Congratulations to all of the youth for leading a spectacular youth service this year! The youth group chose the worship theme of “love and loss” and led the Sunday services twice this past month, January 29 at USR and February 5 at CUC. Thanks to everyone for your great work in collaborating with each other and bringing their ideas to the process.

We had some great activities outside of our Sunday meetings over the last month as well. Our Friday Food and Fellowship Night on the first Friday in January was a great game night. The staff and youth met for four hours on a Saturday to work on making a youth group vision and mission statement. And several youth went to the Women’s March in NYC on January 21st and shared their experience with us.

An exciting event is coming up on February 24-26th at USR — I think that everyone should know about — we will be hosting a district youth con! Sixty youth from all across the Metro New York district will come together at Ridgewood for a weekend of community building, games, and worship. Our youth leaders will be hard at work planning the event in the weeks to come. We will need parent volunteers to help in the kitchen with food for the weekend, and more details about the event will be coming soon so please watch your email.

The youth group Sunday meetings will return to CUC for February and March beginning on February 12th at our same time of 12:30-2:30 p.m. Thanks again to our adult advisors for all of their great work this year!

James Forrest

CONNECTIONS

We’ll be gearing up shortly for our Spring Connections Groups and hope you’ll join us. Connections is the small group ministry program of USR. Members and friends meet in small groups to consider life issues that matter, deepening understanding of faith and values. Connections groups are led by trained facilitators, have six to ten members each and meet twice a month for eight sessions. Click [here](#) for a full explanation of what Connections is. Please look in upcoming eblasts for more information and our sign-up sheet.



Tuesday Connections Group working on a Service Project

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

Save the Date!

Debby Irving, author of "Waking Up White", will be providing a workshop at USR on Wednesday evening, **April 19th**. She has presented workshops throughout the U.S. including one for a coalition of congregations at the Unitarian Church in Summit, NJ. She will be in our area thanks to a commitment with the Glen Rock school system the following evening. Find a copy of the book at the Social Responsibilities table during coffee hour.

MLK Celebration

Over 400 people including numbers of us from USR attended the 35th annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Celebration of Ridgewood and Glen Rock at the United Methodist Church in Ridgewood on Monday morning, January 16. The speaker, Imam Zaid Shakir, is a founder of Zaytune College, a four-year liberal arts college in Berkeley, CA, and one of the signatories of "A Common Word Between Us and You", and open letter from Islamic scholars to Christian leaders, calling for peace and understanding.

Save the Date!

Thursday, March 9th at 7:30 p.m.

The USR Peace & Justice Committee and the American Friends Service Committee are co-sponsoring a program Police and Violence in the Age of Trump. Rev. Anthony Johnson and John Lindsay-Poland will be the presenters.



Peace & Justice Meetings

We welcome you to join us at our Peace & Justice meetings and become part of the movement. We usually meet the 3rd Sunday of every month at 11:45 in the Reeb House.

Save the Date!

On Saturday, **March 11, 2017** at 6:30 p.m. the Reproductive Justice Committee invites you to a panel discussion focused on the rights and lives of incarcerated women and their families. From poverty to childhood trauma, panelists will discuss the many factors that play a role in imprisonment, as well as reflect on the state of women's rights within prison walls. Join in the conversation that is often left out of the discussion on mass incarceration. We are pleased to announce that the keynote speaker will be Stephanie Cameron Kennedy, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut School of Social Work. Dr. Kennedy's expertise is victimization and other issues that incarcerated women experience. She focuses on their current mental health and decisions they make to continue to parent their children. We are also welcoming Crystal Hayes, a PhD student whose interest is in the Prison Birth Project's anti-shackling advocacy campaign in MA and its impact on actual birthing experiences.

REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Thank You!!!!

On behalf of Clifton Arrington and the People's Organization for Progress, I want to thank the members and friends of USR for your extremely generous donations on Sunday, January 15, 2017. The total came to \$2018! The funds will be well-used as POP continues its vital work on behalf of social justice for all people.

Margaret White

Plate Collection

Once a month the plate collection is donated to a cause nominated by a member of the congregation and chosen by the Social Responsibilities Council. The **February 5th** plate collection will be given to the **Paterson Alliance**, a coalition of more than 75 nonprofits in Paterson, working together to improve the lives of the people in Paterson. The Paterson Alliance provides education, leadership and support opportunities to its members. The current focus is Think Pre-K! The campaign is reaching into communities of Paterson to let them know that Pre-K is available at no cost to residents, to teach about the benefits of Pre-K, and to assist parents in registering their 3-and 4-year-olds. For more information about the Paterson Alliance contact Inge Spungen. For more information on the plate collection process contact Carol Loscalzo, chair of the Social Responsibilities Council.



The Women's Marches were incredibly successful. USR members participated in four marches! Men, women and families went to Washington D.C., New York City, Wyckoff and Trenton, NJ. The diverse groups were there to support the autonomy, dignity and strength of women; their ability to control their bodies and to be free of abuse and violence. We were also there to support racial justice, to fight discrimination based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender and sexual orientation, to dismantle barriers in health care, housing and education; to fight for immigrant rights; to end mass incarceration and police violence; and to protect our environment and to press for action on climate change. We heard over and over at these marches that women's rights are human rights.

Susanne Fuhrman reported, at the USR Community Dinner, that people were inspired by the D.C. March, where crowds were estimated at over half a million. The marchers included men, families, friends and supporters. There was a strong feeling of solidarity and support. The positive energy was amazing! There was a large New Jersey UU contingent organized by the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ.

The Wyckoff rally attracted 400 people. Jane Scerbo, one of the participants said, "It truly was a glorious sight to see Franklin Avenue in Wyckoff lined on both sides of the street with families holding their wonderful signs exercising their rights as citizens."

During the planning phase, NJ March in Trenton Steering Committee hoped for an attendance of 1000. Instead, the 2400-seat capacity Patriots Theater at the War Memorial was filled with overflow crowds listening to excellent speakers on the PA system outside. The final estimate was 6000 – 7000. Numerous UUs from around the state were in attendance, and again, UULMNJ was well represented. USR folks carried colorful signs designed for us by Carol Wolf. Speakers included a very diverse group of people, including participants who shared their "Tweets" about why they were marching. After the speakers, we marched to the NJ State House for the final rally with inspiring speakers.

Continued on next page....

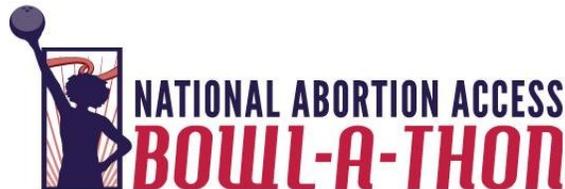
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Women's Marches continued from Page 8...

In New York City, some members of the Peace & Justice Committee as well as members of a USR women's group attended the march. The rally was held at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on 48th St. The plaza was filled to capacity as the police continually had to move the barriers until only a path was left on the sidewalk. A surprise visit from Whoopi Goldberg ended the rally. When the rally was over, we inched our way along to 2nd Ave., taking over an hour and half just to enter the march. Senator Schumer, managed to enter Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and joined in the march. Women, men and children of all ages from the very young to senior citizens were there, some in wheelchairs, or others walking with canes. One sign was held up by a young girl stating she would be voting in 2028. These young feminists were shouting out for equality, a beautiful sight to behold. New young activists were being born that day! People flooded the side streets so that all we could see was a rainbow of people in all shades. Everyone was in good spirits, polite, patient, and caring of one another. We were all one people, the people of the U.S. and we were walking for equality and justice for all of us. We yelled and screamed and wave of voices could be heard as chants were begun. This was the spirit of Standing on the Side of Love.

Everybody agrees that we all came home with renewed energy and a desire to continue to work for the issues that are so much at risk. The Social Responsibilities committees at USR and their partners are ready to work. We hope you can join a committee or attend one of the events that are being planned and join in the actions that will be offered. Another way to get involved is to join the online Social Responsibilities Bulletin Board yahoo group. In addition to weekly eblasts, the monthly newsletter and our Facebook page, the yahoo group is an excellent way to stay knowledgeable about what is happening.

Click [here](#) to visit our Women's Marches photo gallery.



SAVE THE DATE

It's that time of the year! Shine your shoes and dust those cobwebs off your bowling ball, it's time to bowl for abortion access! The NJAAF Bowl-A-Thon is here.

On **April 29, 2017** reproductive justice warriors will be showing off their skills and fundraising prowess to make sure there is equal access to abortion, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, age, class, immigration status and ability.

How can you help? Make a team, join a team, or make a donation – every contribution is appreciated.

When: April 29, 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Where: Bowler City, Hackensack, NJ

Why: Because without access, can people truly have a choice?

How: For information contact Carol Loscalzo (closcalzo2@aol.com) with questions on how to join a team or make a donation.

**SOCIETY CAFE
CONCERT SERIES
2016 - 17 SEASON PRESENTS...**



BLUE PLATE SPECIAL

BLUEGRASS



Photo credit: Daniel Stewart

Saturday, February 11th

Dessert at 7 p.m. Concert at 8 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**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	2	3 7:00 SRC Post-March/ Fellowship Rm	4
5 10:00 Service 11:15 Town Hall Mtg./ Anderson 11:45 UU Class/Conf. Rm 3:00 Adult RE Class/ Conf. Rm	6 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustee Mtg/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	7 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:00 Education Justice/Reeb Basement 7:00 Racial Justice/ Conf Rm 7:00 Transition Team//Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Connections/ Youth Rm	8 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 UU Class/ Youth Rm 7:00 One Book USR/Fellowship 7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	9 7:00 Sunday Service Comm./ Upstairs Mtg. Rm	10	11 9:00 Ministerial Search/Upstairs Mtg Rm 8:00 Society Café Concert/Anderson
12 10:00 Service 11:45 UU Class/Conf. Rm. 3:00 Adult RE Class/ Conf. Rm 5:00 Annual Budget Drive/Anderson	13 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:30 Nominating Comm./Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	14 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:00 CYRE/ Youth Rm	15 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	16	17 6:30 Parent's Night Out/RE Rm	18
19 10:00 Service 11:30 P&J Meeting/Conf. Rm 3:00 Adult RE/Conf. Rm	20 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	21 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm 7:00 Transition Team/Upstairs Mtg. Rm	22 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	23 7:00 SRC Meeting/Conf. Rm	24 3:00 Metro NY District Youth Conf/Anderson	25 9:00 Metro NY District Youth Conf/ Anderson 9:00 Ministerial Search Comm/ Upstairs Mtg. Rm
26 10:00 Service 3:00 Adult RE Class/ Conf. Rm 5:00 Annual Budget Drive (Snow Date)	27 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	28				

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

The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson, Interim Minister 201-444-6225
usr.minister@gmail.com

Johanna Seale, Director Religious Education 201-444-5225
usr.dre1@gmail.com

James Forrest, Youth Group Adv. 480-754-9039
cucusyouthgroup@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

Society Office Hours: 9:00—3:00, Monday-Friday

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

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

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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

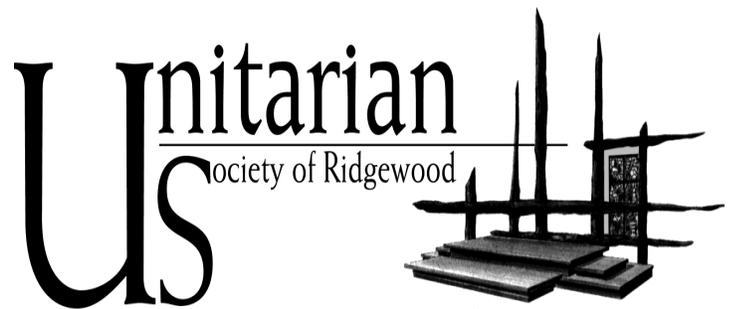
This Society is an [anti-racist congregation](#) committed to reflecting this commitment in the life and culture of the entire organization. Adopted May, 2002.

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 February 21st deadline
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com