



On February 18, 1872, Olympia Brown preached a sermon in Bridgeport Connecticut. Brown was the first female ordained in this country with full denominational support. On that Sunday in February, she said (and I've updated the gendered language):

"Universalists believe in a God of love. They believe in a God who looks with the equal eye upon all...children; who can never be alienated from any; who ever seeks the means for the salvation of the world from sin, and who will ultimately bring every wandering soul home, reconciled and confirmed in the good.

**From the  
Minister's Mailbox**

If, indeed, all are one family, if it be true as the apostle said that 'God created of one blood all the nations of [humanity] to dwell in all the face of the earth': if we all have one [Parent], and one God hath created us, and if [God] has designed all to dwell with [God] through the endless cycles of eternity, how near we are to one another! How precious does every soul become! We feel that every one is worthy of our love...All are our kindred."

I love this reading.

Even if my theology doesn't include a God that creates,  
Even if my theology doesn't include a God that saves,  
This reading strikes a chord and it is part of why I'm a UU.

Because I do believe in Love as a force of creation and creativity,  
I do believe in Love that saves us all,  
and I do believe that all of us are kindred,  
every one of us a precious soul,  
worthy of love.

Universalism was often castigated as an easy theology that allowed people to do whatever they wanted on this earth because there would be no repercussions in death. Universal salvation, critics said, only leads to chaos and hedonism.

But there is nothing easy about the Universalist call to love all. There is nothing hedonistic about the Universalist call to allow space for every wandering soul to come home. There is nothing chaos-seeking in the Universalist call to embody in every moment the godliness of an all-encompassing love.

This February we will be exploring what loving is. Loving ourselves, loving those nearest to us, loving the unknown mass of humanity, and loving the great wide cosmos in which we play out our individual lives. This sermon series will help us all think about the ways in which our loving is informed by our theology, and our theology by the historical Universalism we inherit.

Please join us!

Rev. Sarah



## Reflections

January has been a wonderful month for Religious Education at USR. It is the month that we take a break from regular Sunday school and focus on Justice programming to help pass the flame of social action down to our children. Specifically, I have been proud of the work of youth, parents, and volunteers in putting together a wonderful Martin Luther King Jr. Day event with CAMP and working with the Environmental Justice committee on Sunday mornings to teach the children about protecting the earth.

Regular Sunday school resumes on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and I am looking forward to a delightful Spring semester of curriculum and learning. Of particular note is the High School Youth Group service in April and the Coming of Age service in May. For those who want to be more involved in the Religious Education community, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for exciting Religious Education fellowship and volunteer opportunities in your order of service and your email!

Be well,  
Rev. Dylan Doyle-Burke



Hello from your youth coordinator,

Believe it or not we're halfway through our church year for youth group! It feels like the weeks are flying past us. As our group settles into a solid routine it's heartening for me as an adult working in youth ministry to see new bonds being formed between youth, advisors, and parents, and I always feel honored to be included in their community as they grow and develop, both personally and spiritually.

Over the past month our Sunday youth group meetings have examined the history of the Christmas holiday, taken a look at the structure of our communities, discussed how to discuss race with people, and talked about communication styles in UUism. Our off-Sunday activities last month included our Christmas Break sleepover at CUC (including the cookie decorating overnight), a youth con in Plainfield, and our Friday Game Night at the beginning of the month. The next game night is February 2 from 6-10pm at CUC, all youth grades 9-12 are welcome. We're also going to be having a Super Bowl party for the youth group at CUC on February 4th from 6-10pm. We'd love to see everyone there!

The youth group Sunday meetings will be held at CUC in February and March at our same time of 12:30-2:30 p.m. And as always thanks to our adult volunteers for all of their great work this year and a special thank you to our parents for stepping in to chaperone this month. Your support makes this whole program possible.

James

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

### Upcoming Services

February 4th	<b>"Self-Love" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi</b> This will be a Time for All Ages service. Musician: Ron Levy, piano
February 11th	<b>"Love for Others" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi</b> Musician: Ron Levy, piano
February 18th	<b>"Love for Earth" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi</b> Musician: Ron Levy, piano
February 25th	<b>Lay-Led Service sponsored by the Sunday Service Committee</b> Musician: Ron Levy, piano

## CIRCLE OF LIFE

We offer condolences to Members, Jeri and Bob Cohn, for the recent passing of Jeri's brother.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Members Ed and Debbie Wardell for the passing of Ed's father.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

### Newcomer's Brunch

The Membership Committee is happy to report we had 13 visitors in addition to Rev. Sarah, Rev. Dylan and Ann attend the January 21st Newcomer's Brunch.

Our next event is the UU (Unitarian Universalist) class scheduled for Sunday, **February 11th** at 11:30 a.m. in the Reeb conference room. Invitations will be sent out the beginning of February for the class. If you are a visitor and wish to learn more about what it means to be a UU, please contact Ann Pareti at [usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com).

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

### Nominating Committee

The 2018 Nominating Committee has been meeting. We have to nominate candidates for the following 5 open positions to be voted upon at the USR Annual Meeting on June 3, 2018:

Vice President (2-year term)

3 Board Members (two full 3-year terms and one partial 1-year term)

2 Nominating Committee Members (two 1-year terms with intention to renew for a second 1-year term next year).

If you have any questions, suggestions, or even if you want to be considered yourself, please contact one of the members of the current Nominating Committee (Frank Loscalzo, Chair, Stephanie Gannon, Marilyn Maney, Helen Matusow-Ayres or Ralph Pleasic) in the next few weeks.

Frank Loscalzo (201) 391-2439

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### SHARE Senior Housing to be Recipient of February 11th 2018 Plate Collection

The wonderful saying of "It takes a Village" is perfect in expressing the relationship between USR and SHARE, two senior residences in Ridgewood. Beginning in 1982, affordable, group living has been available to those 62 and older, but many of SHARE residents are well into their 80's and 90's! These independent elders pay one fee which includes a private bedroom, shared bath and meals. Due to the age of both homes, numerous maintenance projects are needed. Your generous gifts will provide some of the funds we need. Thank you for your continued generosity. Please go to [www.shareridgewood.org](http://www.shareridgewood.org) for more info. If you can't be at the service, please consider sending a check to SHARE at 104 Cottage Place.

Georgetta Walsh- SHARE Advisory Board for Charitable Giving

### Thank You!

On behalf of Clifton Arrington and the People's Organization for Progress in Newark, the Social Responsibilities Council wants to thank the members and friends of USR for your donations on Sunday, January 14, 2018. The total collected came to \$1,338.00. The funds will be well used as POP continues its vital work on behalf of social justice for all people.

### Save the Date

Mark your calendars now for the 2018 New Legislative Possibilities Conference sponsored by UU Faith-ActionNJ. Details as follows:

**Where:** The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540

**When:** Sunday, **February 4th** between 12:15-3:15 p.m.

**Why:** To learn more about the fast moving legislative opportunities newly available to progressives following the January 16th inauguration of Gov. Phil Murphy. Topics include: Revisiting Energy solutions, the Pros (and Cons) to Legalizing Cannabis, an End to Solitary Confinement and more.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL**

### **NJAAF Fundraiser**

The Board of The New Jersey Abortion Access Fund (NJAAF) invites you to join them for their first annual fundraiser on Thursday, **February 15** from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Princeton Arts Council, Princeton, NJ. NJAAF was founded at USR in 2006 following a forum about limited abortion access which was sponsored by the Reproductive Justice Committee of USR. It soon became a 501(c)(3) with the help of generous grants from the USR Endowment Fund. NJAAF envisions a world where equal access to abortion is guaranteed for all regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, age, class, immigration status and ability. Its primary goal is to provide financial assistance to those seeking safe, legal abortions. See the flyer for this event, "Choose to Love & Love to Choose" on page 7 or go to [njaaf.org](http://njaaf.org) or follow on Facebook. If you are interested in joining others from USR, please contact Carol Loscalzo.

### **Know Her Truths: Life Behind Bars for Women in NJ**

Unitarian Universalist Faith Action New Jersey is sponsoring an event, "Know Her Truths: Life Behind Bars for Women in NJ" on **February 18th**. Please see flyer on page 8. It is possible to come to the USR Sunday service and have time to drive to Monmouth for the event. For further information, please see Ira Mendelsberg or Carol Loscalzo.

### **Save the Date**

#### **Interfaith Celebration on Presidents Day**

Please join us on **February 19th** at Bergen Community College, 4-8 p.m. to hear keynote speaker, Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen. Learn about the following faiths: Baha'i, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Sikh, and our own UU faiths. All ages welcome. Free parking and free admission. Click [here](#) to view flyer.

The Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood Committee of Bergen County has been around for over 25 years. Unitarians have been invited to join this year and USR became a member a few months ago. The Peace and Justice Committee is looking forward to working with this committee and working with the organization on social justice issues. Please support this day.

We are also looking for volunteers to stand at the UU table on **February 19th**. Contact Anita Young.

### **The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition Needs Your Help!**

The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition is looking for a couple or family to provide a home for a young Honduran male whose parents were separated when he was 2 years old, who had minimal education and worked in construction, and who fled gang violence after being beaten for refusing to join the gang. He arrived in the U.S. in April, 2017, after an arduous 6-week journey by train and foot, during which he suffered food scarcity and beatings by a local gang along the way. He recently turned 18 and was released from Children's Village, NY to the Lighthouse, an interim facility in Jersey City for young asylum applicants run by First Friends. Since arriving here, he has had some schooling and is rapidly learning to speak, read, and write in English. He has a pro bono lawyer helping him with his asylum case. He has a 20-year old sister and a 13-year old twin sister and brother back in Honduras. Here, he has no relatives. If you are interested in helping this bright and genial young man who has been dealt a very difficult hand thus far, please contact Elizabeth Ames or Sally Pillay.



Since its [inception](#), Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) received feedback from disability rights activists within Unitarian Universalism about the exclusionary and ableist language of “standing”.

Over the last nine years, the vision of our work has shifted and transformed from working on issues of dismantling white supremacy, LGBTQ equity, addressing anti-Muslim bigotry, immigration

justice and more. We find ourselves now meeting the shifting political moment, providing behind the scenes support in moments of uprising, leveraging resources and offering spiritual sustenance. During this time, some UUs have already adapted our name to remove the word “standing.” We have seen people change t-shirts, banners, and the song that inspired the campaign’s name. Pushed forward by a [Responsive Resolution at GA 2017](#), we committed to changing the name because of its history of injury and exclusion and to honor and respond to feedback by making the shift. Staff from the UUA, in collaboration with the authors of the Responsive Resolution, [EqUUal Access](#) and other stakeholders, worked on the name change proposal.

We are so excited to share with you that our new name, our new imagining, as the Responsive Resolution so beautifully called for, is Side with Love! You can also watch a video about our announcement [here](#). Check out EqUUal Access’ take on the shift [here](#).

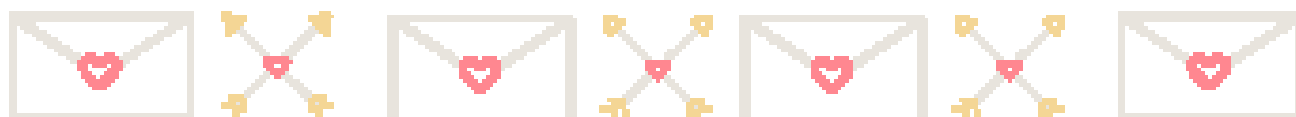
Side with Love is an invitation and a challenge. It is an opportunity to firmly name what we are for and against. To recognize that as we seek to embody universalism we commit to resisting oppression. A recognition that in many moments there are two sides: one of love and one of oppression and violence. We are always bound up in messy webs alongside even those who perpetrate hate. And daily, we choose whether we are siding with love, freedom, liberation, reparations, and integrity or whether we are siding with the violence of white supremacy, patriarchy, ableism and heterosexism.

Side with Love raises provocative spiritual questions including “When have I sided with love? When have I shirked siding with love? When have I chosen the side of comfort, apathy, despair, and acquiescence instead of the side of faith, risk, sacrifice, and resistance?”

Side with Love is an opportunity to expand and deepen our understandings of the ways [ableism](#) shows up within the justice and spiritual communities we participate in, create and cultivate. Over the last year, we supported organizing to stop the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, working with members from disability rights and housing justice organizations like ADAPT and Housing Works. We hope to continue to build with organizations within our faith working on these issues. We also invite you to engage the [Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Program](#), [EqUUal Access](#), and [Worship Web](#), and the many leaders within our faith doing this work and offering powerful resources for this journey.

### **Save the Date**

Social Justice weekend is back! After a few years break, the Racial Justice and Reproductive Justice Committees are planning a weekend to explore Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Black Mamas Matter. We have scheduled Friday, **March 9** and Saturday, **March 10**, both in the evening. Rev. Sarah will do the sermon on Sunday, **March 11**. On March 9th we will hear from Zellie Imani, the BLM leader from Paterson. On March 10th we will view “Death by Delivery” followed by an expert panel. More to follow. Please join us!

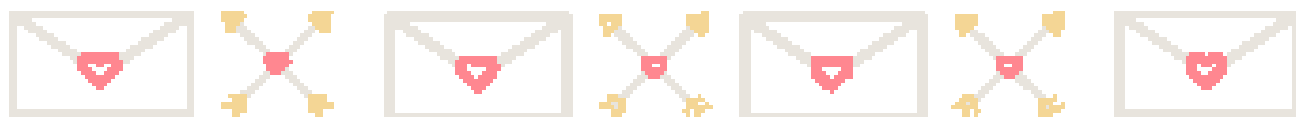


## Choose to Love & Love to Choose

*Please join for an evening reception to benefit  
the New Jersey Abortion Access Fund*  
February 15th, 2018--6:30pm-8:30pm  
Princeton Arts Council--Princeton, NJ

*Featuring the first ever  
Ms. Dea Abortion Access Commitment Award,  
to be presented to  
Dr. Melissa Madera of the Abortion Diary Podcast.*

**For tickets and information on sponsorship  
opportunities visit: <https://goo.gl/4mf2U7>  
or email Roxanne:  
[rsutocky@thewomenscenters.com](mailto:rsutocky@thewomenscenters.com)**







# Know Her Truths: Life Behind Bars for Women in NJ

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

1:15-3 PM

(REGISTRATION 12:45PM)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION OF MONMOUTH  
COUNTY (UUCMC)

1475 W. FRONT STREET, LINCROFT, NJ  
07738

Sponsored by



A panel discussion with returning citizens, Nafeesah Goldsmith and Ivelisse Gilestra, Dr. Johnna Christian, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Rutgers-Newark, and Dr. Johanna Foster, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Monmouth University, on the gendered challenges women face in NJ prisons, including sexual violence, reproductive assaults, and mothering from the inside.

Convenors: Reproductive Justice and Criminal Justice Task Forces, UU FaithAction NJ

**Childcare is available upon request. Please contact Ann Sherwood  
([acsherwoodgeneral@gmail.com](mailto:acsherwoodgeneral@gmail.com))**

**by Sunday, February 11, with the number of children and their ages.**



*Society Cafe Concert Series*



# AMERICANA FEST

## SATURDAY, FEB 24<sup>th</sup>

8pm Show... Doors at 7pm

**UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD  
113 COTTAGE PLACE**

*Two Original Roots Acts with Ridgewood Roots!*

No Fuss  
LUNCH

PARK  
WEST  
TAVERN  
30 OAK

Dawns  
Catering  
Ridgewood, NJ  
(201)447-9747



"One of our favorite new bands" - SiriusXM's The Loft



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TICKETS \$20 VIA PAYPAL

[SOCIETYCAFECONCERTSERIES.COM](http://SOCIETYCAFECONCERTSERIES.COM) (or \$25 at the door)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Nominating Committee/ Upstairs Conf Rm.	2	3
4 <b>10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi</b> 11:30 Music Committee/Conf.	5 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustees/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	6	7 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	8 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship	9	10
11 <b>10:00 Service—Rev. Sarah Lenzi</b> 11:30 UU Class/Conf. Rm 11:30 Reproductive Justice Mtg/Upstairs Rm	12 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	13	14 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	15 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/Anderson	16	17
18 <b>10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi</b> 11:30 Sunday Service Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm 11:30 P&J Meeting/Conf. Rm	19 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	20	21 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog  7:00 Racial Justice Committee Mtg/Conf. Rm	22 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	23	24 8:00 Society Café Concert/Anderson
25 <b>10:00 Service - Lay-led Service sponsored by the Sunday Service Committee</b>	26 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	27	28. 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog  6:30 Faith Talks at the Steel Wheel Tavern			

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

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  
**UNITARIAN  
SOCIETY of  
RIDGEWOOD**

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



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