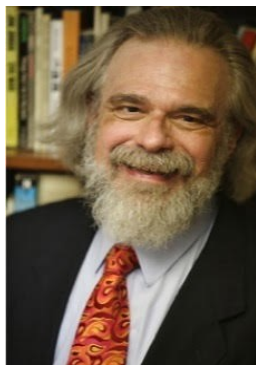
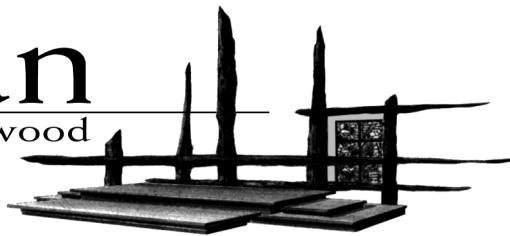


Unitarian

Society of Ridgewood



The two-year intentional interim ministry is drawing to a close. The beginning of the Unitarian Society's new settled ministry approaches.

These two-years (twenty-two months, as I write) have been wonderful. It has been a joy as well as a challenge for me to work with the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, as you moved from a feeling of disappointment and dismay to one of well-earned hope for the future. You and I have been working really hard.

Because of the hard work, you are positioned for a time of growth in spiritual depth, ethical commitment, and numbers included and served. I make no specific predictions. But I will say this: Whatever you and your new minister imagine together, go for it!

From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

I have two more Sundays with you (June 4th & 11th) and a few more weeks on duty (through June 30th). For a week of my remaining time (June 19th – 25th), I will be in New Orleans to attend the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

This year's GA will address the issues of white supremacy culture within the denomination and work toward a truly anti-racist future. Because we will become more true to what we want Unitarian Universalism to be, our national Association and its member congregations will grow. We were already drawing people in need of liberal religious community in the time of Trump and strengthening our interfaith connections. Right now Unitarian Universalists are modeling for others how to work for justice in the world and within our own religious institutions at the same time.

At the General Assembly, delegates will elect a new president for the Unitarian Universalist Association. All three candidates, the Reverends Susan Frederick-Gray, Alison Miller, and Jean Pupke, are highly qualified. My judgment is that the Rev. Alison Miller is the best choice to lead the UUA into a future of spiritual, ethical, and institutional growth. She has demonstrated leadership that includes and encourages individuals to grow their own souls and live fully their values and beliefs. She has demonstrated leadership that enables congregations to do what they must do to live their mission to the world. You can read my endorsement at <http://www.alisonforuapresident.org/rev-dr-anthony-johnson/>.

I will miss you all and this wonderful congregation. If there is anything you wish to say to me, take time to speak with me on Sunday, especially following the service on June 11th, or when I am in the office or send me an email. My Message on June 4th is titled "What's Left to Say?" I have a few things left to say and I expect that some of you have a few things to say in response.

Keep the faith!

Rev Dr TJ

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



Reflections

I'm writing to you after a moving Bridging Ceremony where we acknowledged the passage of two of our high school seniors into young adulthood, and then spending the afternoon with the whole CUC/USR Youth Group as they did their own Bridging Ceremony for the four high school seniors present in the combined Youth Group. As is so often the case, spending time with these young people gave me hope for the future, and affirmation that this faith is making a difference in the lives of our children. The care and compassion with which they treat one another - both their close friends and their vague acquaintances - is inspiring. They are models of "radical hospitality", and show up for each other in a way that many of us could learn from.

Last month I promised to share the results of a review done by the RE Committee and me of our RE program accomplishments during my time as your DRE. Unfortunately, the RE Committee meeting had to be postponed, and so what follows are my thoughts alone. I hope, however, they are still illuminating.

I began with my recent reflections on our Youth Group, because I feel that one of my biggest challenges, and indeed one of the biggest challenges I've seen across our denomination, is keeping the children who grow up in Unitarian Universalist religious education programs engaged with UU congregations through high school and on into young adulthood. I wish I could leave you with a magical solution to this problem, but the best I can do is exhort you to keep reaching out to our young people, and to form meaningful relationships with them long before they reach high school age. There are a few great built-in opportunities for this - teaching RE classes, serving as a Coming of Age mentor - and many more casual moments - coffee hour - where connections can be made. The possibility of creating true multigenerational community is one of the greatest blessings of our faith community, and we must constantly be cognizant of the thought and intentionality that the creation and maintenance of this community requires.

Overall, I am proud of the RE program that we have offered for the past two years. I am so grateful for all the wonderful and dedicated volunteers that allowed us to offer age-specific classes, January Justice Workshops, multiage holiday programming, nursery care, three levels of Our Whole Lives sexuality education programming, Coming of Age, and Youth Group.

At the end of last year in an RE Visioning Workshop, we came up with three RE needs that included helping families get to know each other better, relieving overburdened parent volunteers, and fostering more multi-generational connections. I invite you to read more about this in my Annual Report, but in short, I am proud to have made a lot of progress especially towards the first two goals with several new programs this year. Kids and families have connected at Parent's Nights Out and other non-Sunday programs, the number of parents teaching RE has fallen as others have stepped up to the plate, and I have seen the parents of young children in our program forming deep connections and creating the kind of community that will serve as a strong foundation for our RE program going forward. The future is bright!

In case you don't get to read my Annual Report - I'll close here the same way I did there. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as your DRE for the past two years. I am grateful for all the relationships I have formed, all the valuable lessons I have learned, and the shared ministry that we have done together. I have felt valued and appreciated as a member of your staff, and have been impressed by this congregation's commitment to religious education. I will miss you all, and wish you all the best!

With love,
Johanna



The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the USR will be sponsoring Katie Byron in her pursuit of a Fellowship as a Unitarian Minister.

Katie grew up attending the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. She graduated from Brown University in 2015 with a double major in Computational Biology and Gender and Sexuality Studies. She is currently completing a fellowship in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. She is passionate about understanding the ways that identity shapes experiences of healthcare and how we can best provide spiritual and emotional support to patients and families facing difficult healthcare decisions. She will be beginning a dual MDiv/MSW program at Boston University in the fall with the eventual goal of serving as a UU hospital chaplain.

Katie shared the following statement with us:

“I have the unique honor of serving patients as an abortion doula. I accompany people before, during, and after their procedures, talking about everything from what their family thinks of their decision to what they're going to eat for lunch that day. Many of them talk about their struggles with reconciling their faith with the decision they are making. I believe it is these people that are calling me to ministry. I want to help people working to reconcile their faith with the choices they make, the things that happen to them, and the people they become. I am pursuing theological education to better understand how to sit with people contemplating how value-laden medical decisions intersect with their faith identity. I hope to continue building a vocation that embraces the divine complexities of human experience and creates spaces for nuance in our polarized political climate. My commitment to justice work that honors the full range of human experiences is part of my commitment as a Unitarian Universalist to honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I believe faith and spirituality provide opportunities to transcend the binaries and partisan reductions that surround these issues and create space to address deeper questions of how we create the Beloved Community in a way that acknowledge the messiness of being human.”

We are honored to have the opportunity to sponsor such an impressive young woman who we can call one of our own.

Rob Willis

Katie Byron



News from the Office

Please note summer hours will begin for the office staff on Monday, **June 12th**. The office will be open each day from 9-12 p.m.

Children/Youth Religious Education News

Hello from your Youth Coordinator,

Parents and youth are invited to join us for an important end-of-year meeting on Wednesday, **June 7**, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Central Unitarian Church (156 Forest Avenue, Paramus). All youth participating in the program are welcome to come, as well as 8th and 9th graders who will be in youth group next year and adult advisors. Parents see my email for more details, as your input is needed and valued, so please make every effort to attend.

It's the end of the RE year and the final Sunday meeting for the youth group was last week. It's been a great year and I want to thank all the youth and adult advisors who helped us build a comforting and inclusive spiritual community.

Our youth program is bridging five seniors out of the youth group and into young adulthood this Spring. Mike Devlin, Emily Marchesani and Scott Buksbaum will be part of our bridging ceremony during the **June 4th** worship at CUC, please come and celebrate this transition! During last week's Sunday service at USR we bridged Helen Witte and Hannah Rigdon, and additionally the youth group did their own private bridging ritual during our May 21st meeting where we took time to honor both the relationships between the youth and with our congregations. They will surely be missed.

We did our own white supremacy teach-in during our meeting on April 30 and had a great time welcoming our incoming 8th graders on May 7. This month's game night was our final one for the year and was a nice, relaxed affair at USR. We look forward to more of those beginning next fall. Some of our youth will be attending a youth con at the Staten Island church this month on youth racial justice leadership.

One last thing...everyone remember to look for our very own Hannah Rigdon as Senior Business Manager for General Assembly Youth Caucus later this month in New Orleans! I won't be there in person but I'll be live streaming the general sessions and watching her lead our youth through the business of our association. Congratulations Hannah!

Thanks,
James

PROGRAM COUNCIL

The USR Program Council is pleased to announce that the Society will continue to display our Black Lives Matter banner during the coming year. Our efforts to support the cause of racial justice during the past year have been well received, and we are proud to continue to demonstrate our continued commitment. Thank you to all for indicating your support!



MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown-Bag Luncheon



Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **June 7, 2017** to be hosted by Georgetta Walsh 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.

We're Firin' Up the Grill...

For USR's Annual BBQ Celebration — Great food and fun for all ages!

When? Sunday, **June 11th** (immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service).

Where? USR's backyard with the always fun bouncy house for the little ones, and games for all.

What? Hotdogs, burgers (veggie, too) and beverages will be provided. To add to the feast, please bring a dish to share. If your last name begins with...please bring:

A-M...Salad/Side Dish

N-Z...Dessert

(Please consider including a small card telling folks whether it's vegan, vegetarian, dairy-free or gluten-free).

Who? YOU! Wear your favorite concert/music T-shirt (family-friendly please) or a USR shirt. Join the community celebration and rock-out the end of the congregational year!



© Can Stock Photo - osp0095209

One Book USR

Our next meeting is on **June 14**, at 7:30 in REEB. We will be discussing *Philomena* by Martin Sixsmith. This is a true story about an Irish teenager who is sent to a convent and the secret she kept for 50 years. Please join us for a lively discussion.

MINISTRY COUNCIL



THIS MONTH AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY

A Look Back:
Selected Works by
Jon Taner

**Opening Reception:
Friday evening, June 2, 2017
6:30 – 8:30pm**

DID YOU KNOW that the gallery is an important fundraiser for the USR? 25% of all artwork sales goes directly to the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. Please consider supporting local artists – and the USR – by considering a purchase of artwork from our Cottage Place Gallery exhibitions!

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

- June 4th **“What’s Left To Say?” - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**
 As two years of Intentional Interim Ministry approach their conclusion, your Interim minister has a few more things he wants to be sure to say. During the Time for All Ages, we will recognize our religious education volunteers, and our 2nd-3rd graders will be receiving their First Chalice to celebrate reaching the “Age of Reason”. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; 2nd and 3rd grade Choir
- June 11th **“Flower Festival and Minister’s Message” - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**
 This is Dr. Johnson’s final Sunday in the pulpit and the final multigenerational service of the 2016-17 program year. The service is for all ages and each person should bring a single flower to add to the communion. You may read more about the Flower Festival/Communion at <http://www.flower-communion.cz/en/about/>. This is a website of the Unitarian Church in Prague, where the first Unitarian Flower Festival (or Communion) took place in 1923. The Prague church was organized by Norbert and Maja Čapek, Czechs who formerly lived in Belleville and East Orange, New Jersey.
- Dr. Johnson will be available through June 30th, except during Ministry Days and General Assembly, June 19th - 25th. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; Society Singers, and a special surprise guest.
- June 18th **“Life With Our Fathers” - Rev. Edward Frost**
 One can hardly honor the declaration of Fathers Day without bringing one’s own father into it. In doing that, one must of course decide what’s to be included and what’s to be judiciously left out: nothing if not a test of literary or oratorical integrity. I will, as the Scriptures prescribe, honor my father and offer some thoughts in general from Rudyard Kipling, Robert Bly and Jesus of Nazareth (“Father, why hast thou forsaken me?”). Musician: Ron Levy, piano
- June 25th **Karen Bray is the Guest Speaker - Look for details in an upcoming eblast.**
 Musicians: Ron Levy and Michael Caldwell, piano 4-hands

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We send our condolences to the family of long-time member, Grace Erickson, who passed away in February at age 100. A memorial service for Grace is being planned in Anderson Auditorium on Saturday, **June 17th** at 2 p.m.

We offer our thoughts to member, Laura Uscher, who is recuperating at home from emergency appendicitis.

UUA General Assembly

USR is looking for a few good men, women and youth to attend and be delegates to our UUA General Assembly 2017 in New Orleans, **June 21-25**. 2017 GA will elect the president of the UUA for a six-year term and will conduct other business of the denomination. This year offers at least two great reasons to attend and be a delegate. The aforementioned election and New Orleans is a rich historical and cultural destination. Contact board member Laura Krag to apply for delegate status. For web information about GA search, "UUA General Assembly 2017" or you can contact Martin Lavanhar (our denomination rep). This years' GA should be fun, even exciting and just think... it's in New Orleans.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

Plan to come see the Oscar-nominated film “I Am Not Your Negro” (the written and spoken words of James Baldwin) on Friday evening, **September 22nd**. Filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished. The film played only a few weeks in two or three northern Bergen/Passaic theaters this Spring.

In the meantime, here are some suggestions for your summer reading:

DEEP DENIAL: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life by David Billings—Copyright 2016 (copy available at Social Responsibilities table on Sundays). *Deep Denial, part popular history and part personal memoir, documents the 400-year racialization of the United States and how people of European descent came to be called white.*

The UUA Common Read for 2016-2017: “The Third Reconstruction” by Rev. William J. Barber, the North Carolina originator and leader of the Moral Monday movement. (Copy available at SRC table on Sundays).

“Give Us The Ballot” the Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America by Ari Berman. A NY Times and Washington Post Notable Book of the Year.

“The Color of Law” A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein.

Lastly, please click [here](#) to listen to a podcast of the Debby Irving, author of “Waking Up White”, event that was held at USR last month.

June 4th Plate Collection

The **June 4th** plate collection will be given to the Essex LGBT Reaching Adolescents In Need (RAIN) Foundation. This is a 501(c)3 non profit that provides emergency shelter services to address the emergent need of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) individuals experiencing crisis leading to homelessness. Their programs promote self-sufficiency and independence to enhance their residents’ ability to function within their communities. The programs aim to help adolescents lead healthy, productive and meaningful lives. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

Thank you from CoFiA

The Community of Friends in Action, Inc., is extremely grateful for the recently awarded grant for \$2000 from the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood Endowment Fund. The current anti-immigrant policies and practices of the Trump administration puts additional stress on our small organization to respond to needs of the Guatemalan community in Eastern Bergen County. Ongoing needs range, on a daily basis, from trying to find money to help a young man with urgently needed dentistry to presenting workshops to the community at large about what their legal rights are, even when the actions of law enforcement grow ever more illegal. We are also trying to help undocumented parents of American children prepare for the possibility that they may be deported and will need to find legal guardians for children left behind. USR has been a steadfast and generous partner in our work over the years, both as an institution and as individuals. Thank you!



--Margaret B. White, Chair

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Peace & Justice

On May 19th the Peace and Justice committee showed the film *CITIZEN KOCH* and had two representatives of the Represent.US movement discuss the Northern Bergen chapter. The goal is to Stop Political Bribery, End Secret Money and Fix our Broken Elections starting at local levels. In other words we need to take back our government starting at local levels and the state providing a pathway to federal elections as well. We need to end gerrymandering, stop donors from hiding behind secret-money groups and crack down on super PAC's and stop the revolving doors of moving from elected positions or staff and moving into lobbying positions. If this is of interest to you, join the Peace and Justice committee as will be working on this issue with them. We need your support in order to remain active in the congregation.

Plate Collections

The Social Responsibilities Council (SRC) thanks all who submitted applications for monthly plate collections during the current cycle. Please remember that you are welcome to send applications at any time. The next time SRC will be reviewing will be mid-September. Once a month the plate collection is dedicated to an outreach program that fits with the USR mission, supports the work of the Council and subcommittees and is supported by a member or Friend of USR. Please click [here](#) for the application.

SRC recognizes Planned Giving Committee Grants

The SRC thanks the Planned Giving Committee for the grants it announced in 2017. The grants were given to deserving organizations and groups that have been supported by the SRC either with plate collections or with support through direct action. The groups given grants were: Shared Housing Association of Ridgewood and Environs (SHARE) our long supported senior citizen home, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) a program to legally defend children at risk of deportation, CAMP YDP, the Paterson preschool, after school and summer program, Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition (NNJSC) a program that supports and houses political asylees and asylum seekers, Community of Friends in Action, a group that supports Guatemalan workers. Congratulations to the recipients, thank you for the work you do and special thanks to Planned Giving for your financial support!

Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed generously during the May 14 service to Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). Refugee children fleeing appalling conditions in their countries of origin face equally appalling odds of gaining legal residency in the U.S. without the help of volunteer attorneys. KIND trains and mentors volunteer lawyers to represent children in deportation proceedings and provides other assistance to the refugee community. The congregation responded generously. Over \$600. was collected. Thank you!

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Upcoming Meeting

Thinking about checking out the Reproductive Justice Committee? Wondering what we do? Heard about the connection to racial justice and want to know more?

We invite you to join us for our last meeting of the 2016-17 year on Sunday, **June 11**. After enjoying the picnic, join us in the Reeb Conference Room at 11:30. We will review our work for the year and focus on goals for the 2017-18 congregational year.

If you cannot join us, we suggest for your summer reading two current books:

UNDIVIDED RIGHTS: WOMEN OF COLOR ORGANIZE FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, by Jael Silliman, Marlene Gerber Fried, Loretta Ross and Elena R. Gutierrez. The second edition (2004, 2016) “presents an original and textured understanding of the reproductive rights movement by placing the experiences, priorities and activism of women of color in the foreground” This history is sadly largely unknown to the general public.

TO OFFER COMPASSION: A HISTORY OF THE CLERGY CONSULTATION SERVICE ON ABORTION by Doris Andrea Dirks and Patricia A. Relf. This new 2017 book explores another largely unknown movement led by progressive clergy of many faiths.

Questions? Email Susanne Fuhrman or Carol Loscalzo.



Central Unitarian Social Action Team

the SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES
COUNCIL of the
UNITARIAN SOCIETY
of RIDGEWOOD

FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND, 7 P.M.



Named after the 13th constitutional amendment, which abolished slavery except as "punishment for crime," the doc uses archival footage and expert commentary to make the case that slavery hasn't disappeared from the U.S.—it's evolved into our modern system of mass incarceration, one in which many prisons are run by for-profit companies and prisoners can be paid a pittance to work for corporations.

Coming at a time when Black Lives Matter and police bias are being hotly debated, 13th was the first non-fiction film to open the prestigious NY Film Festival in its 54 years. . . "We didn't choose a documentary," NYFF's director Kent Jones said at a screening. "We chose a film that happened to be a documentary."

The 13th constitutional amendment was ratified in 1865 and stated: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist with-

in the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."—*Fortune* magazine, 6 Oct. 2016, accessed 16 Mar. 2017 (directed by Ava DuVernay, 100 min., Not Rated)



13TH

Central Unitarian Church

156 Forest Ave., Paramus (Howard Auditorium [main room])
filmseries@cucparamus.org • 201/262.6300

NJ Transit bus lines #168, 752 (Norman & Forest avenues)

"Come for the film, stay for the discussion!"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 USR Choir/ Fellowship Rm	2 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm 6:30 Art Recep- tion/Anderson	3
4 10:00 Service 11:15 Annual Meeting/ Anderson	5 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 3:30 Racial Justice Mtg/Conf Rm 7:00 Board Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	6 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:00 Connec- tions/Youth Rm 6:00 CYRE/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	7	8 7:00 USR Choir/ Fellowship Rm	9	10
11 9:00 Membership Mtg/ Conf Rm 10:00 Service 11:00 Reproductive Jus- tice Mtg/Conf Rm 11:15 End of Year Picnic	12 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	13 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm	14 7:30 One Book USR/Conf Rm 7:30 Writer's Group/Youth Rm	15	16 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm	17 2:00 Grace Erickson Memorial
18 10:00 Service	19 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 Service	26 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	27	28	29	30	

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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 July 24th deadline
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com