

# Unitarian

## Society of Ridgewood



March is all about membership.



**From the Interim  
Minister's Mailbox**

Each Sunday that I am in the pulpit I remind those of you gathered in Anderson that the Sunday offering is more than the collection of money; it is a ritual of membership. The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood is made, sustained, and governed by its members. Making a pledge of financial support and fulfilling it is an aspect of membership. Indeed, pledges are the major source of funds for the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. The Fellowship Feast and the annual budget drive take place during March. This is one reason why I say that March is all about membership.

But there are more reasons.

During the service on March 5<sup>th</sup>, we will show a video of three young adults who grew up in USR. One of the three, Hannah Rigdon, is the treasurer of the national Unitarian Universalist Youth Caucus and a member of USR. She will introduce the video. In that service we will share the plate with Friends in Action. Membership means working beyond the walls for a better world.

Following the service on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Ann Pareti and I will facilitate a meeting with recent visitors who have attended a Newcomers Brunch and/or Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and are considering membership. If this describes you, let Ann know you will be there.

On Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the service will be devoted to the theme, "The Care and Feeding of the Ministry." This will be about everything the membership does (other than providing financial support) that makes USR the vibrant liberal religious community that it is. Following the service, members of the Transition Team (Delight Dodyk, David Knechel, Carol Patterson, Dave Myers, and Kris Henrickson) will lead small group discussions on all the many ways the members make ministry real, i.e., the ways in which members care for and feed the ministry.

You will notice that I did *not* write "The Care and Feeding of the Minister." That is because, as important as the minister is to the ministry, ministry is the work of the members *and* the minister together. *You and I* do the ministry together during this interim period. *You and your new minister* will do the ministry together in the future. So, let's take time this Sunday to discuss what this means.

One example of what it means is that there are lay-led services, as well as minister-led services. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a lay-led service about the life and martyr's death of Viola Liuzzo, a Unitarian Universalist from Detroit, who was killed during the Civil Rights Movement.

I continue to be excited about the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, its people, and what you do. And I am not the only one. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, I spoke at a forum at Emmanuel Baptist Church about what it is that citizens and religious communities can do to face the challenges presented by the Trump presidency. Both before and after the program, I was thanked for what USR does in the Village of Ridgewood and Bergen County in addressing issues that the entire community and county face.

March is all about membership.

Rev Dr TJ

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

## “COME ANYWAY!”

In preparing for the service I'll be leading this Sunday (although I will be done by the time you read this!), I came across a short piece by the Rev. Victoria Weinstein titled “Come to Church Anyway!” An excerpt:



*Last Sunday morning I picked up the phone in the office at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, LA. After I said, "Good morning, Unitarian Church," a woman's voice said, "Good morning! Can you tell me what the topic is this morning?"*

*Uh-oh.*

*I thought real fast and said, "The topic is, "COME TO CHURCH ANYWAY!" Come no matter what the topic is, because your church needs you and you need your church, and it doesn't matter what the preacher's going to say!"*

*I was the preacher that morning, and I knew it was true.*

### Reflections

*The woman patiently waited while I finished my enthusiastic pitch, winding down by lamely adding, "Um, the topic is actually 'On Resilience.' "*

*"Thank you," she said, and hung up. I'm glad she had a good sense of humor and was nice enough to greet me enthusiastically at the coffee hour after the second service. I had told the story to the congregation as an introduction to the Offering and she was a big enough sport to get a kick out of it, and to thank me for urging her to "Come Anyway!"*

This piece really resonated with me. Lately, whenever my daughter loses or breaks something, she says “it’s ok, we can just buy another one.” She will see something she wants, and ask if she can have it. When I say, “not right now” or “maybe another time” or even just “no”, she’ll often say “but you can just buy it on Amazon!” At the tender age of three and a half, she is already well trained in consumerism, and I’m afraid my husband and I get the blame for training her.

Consumerism pervades every part of our society, and our congregations are no exception. Seemingly, the woman calling to ask the topic was approaching her church from a consumer standpoint: I’ll only come if I know what I’ll get out of it, and if I think it will be something I like. But congregations can’t work that way, it’s up to us to teach our children that.

For congregations to be strong and thriving, we have to give as much as we get. We have to show up even when we might not like what we are going to get. We have to show up even when our needs won’t be immediately met. We have to take the long view - we are building a loving, justice-seeking community; we are there for each other in happy times and sad; sometimes services will serve us, and sometimes they won’t; sometimes our kids will love their religious education classes, and sometimes they won’t; we are doing our part in strengthening an institution that has been around for generations before us and hopefully will be around for our children and their children.

Of course I don’t intend to discount all of the hard work that I know so many of you do to keep our Society not just running, but thriving. Many of you already know this - perhaps you’ve been here through more hard times than good, and yet you keep coming. So this is just a gentle reminder for those who need it, and just as much for myself, in all aspects of my life: COME ANYWAY! The Society needs you. Together, we’ll continue to do our best to make the Society inspiring and stimulating and fun and nurturing every single week. And when we show up every week, not necessarily knowing what we’ll get out of it, we just might create a haven where our kids are sheltered from consumerism, if only for an hour on Sundays.

In faith,

Johanna

## FROM THE BOARD



As the Annual Budget Drive approaches, I want to encourage all of the friends and members of our congregation to please be generous when you decide how much you will commit to donate to the USR this year.

Are you a Fair Share Giver?

Being a Fair Share Giver means that you make a financial commitment to the USR of between 2% and 5% of your adjusted gross annual income. In very simple terms, "adjusted gross annual income" is defined as your gross income less all taxes and any extraordinary expenses that you might have. For example, if your after tax income is \$90,000 per year, then to be a Fair Share Giver you would need to make a financial commitment of at least \$1,800.

This year we are operating with a \$45,000 budget deficit. Although the congregation consciously approved a deficit budget last year in order to invest in the future of the Society at a critical turning point in the life of the USR, it is important that we eliminate that budget shortfall this year. We traditionally have operated with a balanced budget. It is important to the long-term health of the USR that we return to that prudent approach to our finances. The best way to achieve that goal quite simply is to raise more revenue.

When it comes time for you to make your pledge, please take some extra time to reflect upon what the USR means to you and your family, commit to be a Fair Share Giver, and increase your financial commitment.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

Rob

## STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

### 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

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.

# STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

## ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

### Honor Our Past, Picture Our Future

#### Did You Know?...

*The Fellowship Feast -- the kickoff to our Annual Budget Drive each year -- was established when Delight Dodyk served as president of the Board of Trustees in the early 1970's?*

*Today, Delight and her husband Paul, continue to be active members at USR. Please take a moment to read Delight's reflection on when she and Paul first came to USR and why she feels it is imperative to continue to support USR today.*

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Joining the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood was a transforming turning point in our young lives in 1969. What an eye opener!! No dogma, no irrational abstractions. Ken Patton's humanism was inspiring. Minds and values were not to be pressed into a mold, but were to be opened, stretched, challenged, and put to work. The UUA principles made perfect sense as a framework.

The Society has always been for me a place with ways to connect with the moral and ethical world beyond our personal circle. Its members and friends exhibit talents and energies that point outward, that inspire and inform. Our daughters grew into young womanhood with role models of thoughtfulness, kindness, tolerance, and community activism.

The Society has been an integral part of our personal and family life. It is our treasured community. But now, as never before, it is vital to me. I can't remember any time in the past 46 years that has been as personally alarming as the past presidential campaign and election. Not the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment, not even 9/11 itself. It feels as if the United States has turned against itself and our essential core values. This Society is a shelter and a beacon to me and to my values in a way it has never been before.

Paul's and my contribution to the Society's annual budget has always been a top priority in our charitable giving; it is a basic responsibility of being members. But now to me it is much more than that. I want our Society to be a sanctuary and a light shining our country's basic values in the dark of what is happening around our country. I know this requires a financially vigorous Society that has the resources to stand up and be heard beyond our walls. I ask you to reexamine your support level as we have, and make the Society your top priority.

---- Delight Dodyk

## 2017 Fellowship Feast

Enjoy an evening of laughter, good food and fellowship! The Fellowship Feast will begin at 6pm with a cocktail hour followed by a potluck dinner by table and a talent show featuring our own members and friends. Childcare will be provided. You should receive a call or email from your table host by March 6th. If you don't hear from your host by March 6th or have any questions, please contact Laura Krag. We look forward to seeing you on March 18th for this fun event!

# SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

## UPDATE FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

**Congregants have asked about the Survey results.** A summary can be found [here](#).

**Congregants have asked to see the Search Packet:** Please click [here](#) to view the search packet.

### **Upcoming Tasks:**

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

**Now it is your turn:** Ask your committees, councils, groups how you can make a welcoming place for a new minister and how ready you are to manage change.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL



### **Newcomer Brunch**

Please join us for a Newcomer Brunch on Sunday, **April 23rd**, at 11:30 a.m. in the Reeb conference room in the Reeb House. This brunch is for those visitors who would like to connect with other visitors and meet key personnel of The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. Please email Ann Pareti at [usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

### **Town Hall Meeting**

There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, **March 5th** after the service. The agenda will be dedicated to the Annual Budget Drive campaign.



## MINISTRY COUNCIL

### Upcoming Services

- March 5th **Antoinette Brown Blackwell – Pioneer of Liberal Religion in New Jersey - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**  
This service in honor of Women's History Month explores the life and achievements of Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825 – 1921). Ordained as a Congregational minister in 1852, she became a popular preacher, lecturer, and writer and was recognized as a minister by the Unitarian Association in 1878. She was a leader in the women's suffrage movement and was the only well-known leader of her generation of suffragists to live long enough to vote in the 1920 Presidential election. She lived much of her life in New Jersey and founded a Unitarian church in Elizabeth. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; Society Singers
- March 12th **Next Year Will Be Better – And the Reason is You! - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**  
Congregational life is aspirational. Yes, we honor the past. But we also picture and build a future. The Annual Budget Drive provides the financial base for the coming year. Your financial commitment provides the largest portion of the Society's budget. Recognizing that the circumstances of Society members vary greatly, this Message will help you consider how you can make the commitment that is appropriate to you. Musician: Ron Levy, piano
- March 19th **The Care and Feeding of the Ministry - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**  
As your Ministerial Search Committee prepares to recommend a ministerial candidate to the membership of the Society, this is a time to reflect on how to make the next settled ministry successful. Choosing the right ministerial candidate is important. Just as important is the readiness of the membership to do its part to have a successful ministry. Hint: It involves more than money. Bonus: Members of the Transition Team will facilitate small groups discussions following the service. Musicians: Matthew Nunes, euphonium; Ron Levy, piano.
- March 26th **Viola, the story of a song and the UU hero that inspired it - A Lay Service**  
On the 52nd anniversary of the Selma voting rights march, we will hear the story of Viola Gregg Liuzzo, a participant who was murdered by the KKK on the final night of the march. Years later her story gripped and inspired a NJ based songwriter. The song he wrote ultimately led to a key role in honoring Viola's legacy. Musicians: Singer-songwriter Arlan Feiles - music and comments on Viola Gregg Liuzzo; Ron Levy, piano.

### Spring Renewal with CONNECTIONS - Sign-up today!

*Come and try Connections this Spring.* Connections is a small group program where USR members, friends and newcomers can get acquainted, deepen their relationships across generations and participate in a forum for self-reflection. Six to ten people gather to speak from the heart, to be heard and to listen deeply to each other. Timely topics typically explore social, spiritual and ethical issues. Groups meet for eight sessions, twice a month from March-June.

**New:** The Thursday evening Connections Group will host a **Preview** on **Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30 – 9:30 PM** in the Youth Room. The evening will be led as a usual Connections meeting with topic, etc. Sign-up is not required for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and there is no further commitment for this taste of the Connections experience.

To sign-up for a group click [here](#). (Sign-up is for the full 8 weeks; Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> alone does not require sign-up).

Need more information on Connections? Visit [www.uuridgewood.org/connections/](http://www.uuridgewood.org/connections/) or contact Debbie Wardell or Bea Cronin if you have any questions.



## MINISTRY COUNCIL

Hello from your Youth Coordinator,

Congratulations to all of our youth for a spectacular youth service last month! The DRE's and I received enormously positive feedback from both congregations about our youth-led service on "Love and Loss" and we're all very proud of our group. Leading service two weeks in a row can be an exhausting process and all of the youth did a magnificent job. It was a truly collaborative effort so I'd like to give a special thank you to all of the youth, their parents, our advisors and ministers who helped the group over the last month.

The big event for our teens this month is our youth con at Ridgewood. Over the weekend of February 24-26th, we'll be hosting more than 50 youth from our region at this event, including 17 from our youth program. As the hosting congregation we'll be coordinating the con activities under the steady guidance of our youth deans, Faith Keenan and Max Solomon-Frye, as well as providing all the meals for the attendees. We're excited for all of our youth to experience religious community and hone their leadership skills. Thanks to all our parents and volunteers who are helping with the food over the weekend.

Our February game night at CUC was a lot of fun with the youth playing games and examining the deeper UU meanings in Mad Max: Fury Road. We'll be doing our next youth group game night on **March 3rd** at CUC from 6 to 10 p.m., all are welcome!

The youth group Sunday meetings will stay at CUC for March and head back to USR for April and May, all at our same time of 12:30-2:30pm. Thanks to our adult advisors for all of their great work!

James Forrest

## THIS MONTH AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY



**Work by  
Christa M. Leonard**

March 19 – April 16, 2017

**Artist's Reception**  
Sunday, March 26th  
from 3-5PM

**DID YOU KNOW** that the gallery is a USR fundraiser?

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 Cottage Place Gallery exhibitions!

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



### Save the (Revised) Date

Racial justice educator and author, Debby Irving, will present a workshop at USR on Thursday evening, **May 11** from 7 to 9 p.m. Find a copy of her book, "Waking Up White" at the Social Responsibilities table during coffee hour. Members of the Racial Justice committee also have copies they are happy to lend.

### Books and Movies

Several racial justice-themed films are nominated for Academy Awards and are at theaters between Montclair and Ridgewood. They include "Fences" and "Moonlight". "Loving" and "13th" are available for streaming. The latest acclaimed movie is "I Am Not Your Negro" based on the writings and interviews of author, James Baldwin.

The most recent addition to the books at the Social Responsibilities table is the very well-reviewed engrossing narrative history "Give Us The Ballot, The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America" by Ari Berman. Twenty-one states are currently considering bills that would add hurdles to this right.



### Save the Date

#### Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ April Plenary

Please join us on Saturday, **April 8th**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the UULMNJ April Plenary at The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. Keynote Speaker is The Rev. Charles Boyer, African Methodist Episcopal minister, inspirational speaker and NJ legislative activist. Please click [here](#) for details.



**Unitarian Society of Ridgewood**  
**113 Cottage Place**  
**Ridgewood , NJ**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2017**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Anderson Room**



### **Policing and Violence in the Time of Trump**

The new presidency in Washington promotes continued fortification of police and a fear-based narrative that refugees, immigrants and protestors constitute a threat. Yet many communities are coming together to reduce militarized law enforcement, make public officials more accountable, and address our society's racism.

*Rev. Anthony P. (Tony) Johnson* first worked on police-community conflicts and co-operation while a minister in Burbank, CA in the 1970s, when he was a member of the Los Angeles-based Citizen's Commission on Police Repression, and has been attentive to these issues ever since.

*John Lindsay-Poland* is an activist, analyst and researcher who coordinates the Wage Peace Program of the American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco.

### **Come join the Discussion**

Child Care with 2 weeks notice - contact Ann Pareti at [usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com)

**Refreshments will be served**

**Sponsored by Peace & Justice Committee and Racial Justice Committee of USR, Women in Progress , Northern NJ Chapter, National Organization for Women, Central Unitarian Church Social Action Committee , Occupy Bergen County**

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Thank You!!!!

On behalf of the Paterson Alliance, I want to thank our friends at USR for your generous donation of \$849 on Sunday, February 5, 2017. The Paterson Alliance is a coalition of more than 75 nonprofit organizations, working together to create a vibrant Paterson. We are currently doing outreach to make sure families in Paterson know about early brain development, the importance of Pre-K, and are assisting parents in registering their children for Pre-K.

Inge Spungen

### Stand up for Justice in Washington DC

Registration is now open for the **Reversing Inequality Conference** from April 3-5 2017 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, located at 301 A St SE, Washington, DC. For registration information, visit: <http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality>

The rising tide of inequality, intolerance and racism makes it more important for UUs to stand up for their values. UUJEC and UUs for Social Justice in the National Capital Region (UUSJ) are organizing a spring conference in Washington DC to give UUs an opportunity to advocate for a vision of a fair and compassionate society directly to decision makers on Capitol Hill. We cannot take a step back on progress in equality and human rights. Now more than ever we must act...

We will be joined by several of our justice allies, including Sister Simone Campbell and Chuck Collins, build advocacy skills and spend time on capitol hill talking with decisions makers. This is an exciting and important time to be in our nation's capital.

Join a community of like-minded people making a difference by not only defending our gains for social and economic justice but also join people standing for a world that is more compassionate and just. Contact: Rachel Bennett Steury at [uujec@uujec.com](mailto:uujec@uujec.com) or [260-837-8938](tel:260-837-8938) with questions.

### March to request the President release his tax returns

The Tax March isn't an organization – it's a movement – gaining momentum around the country. Throughout the 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump told the American people he would release his tax returns and come clean about his business dealings, as presidential candidates and presidents have done for decades. Despite intense public pressure, President Donald Trump has not yet done so. In refusing to release these tax returns, he is able to hide his business dealings, financial ties, and conflicts of interest.

Within days of his inauguration, the White House petition calling on Trump to release his tax returns garnered the most signatures on a White House petition, ever. The Trump administration's response? **"People don't care."**

There are nationwide marches on **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. The New Jersey march will be at Liberty State Park, Jersey City from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Contact Anita Young if you are interested in going. Click [here](#) for more information about the marches.

### Family Promise Shelter Program Needs Volunteers! For March!

Did you know our congregation is part of the Family Promise network of congregations who provide support for local shelters? Sean Brennan is looking for volunteers to bring dinner and/or sleep over at the United Methodist Church in Ridgewood Sunday or Monday, **March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**. This is a great chance for you to get directly involved in this important cause. Contact Sean Brennan to volunteer or find out more about this important community program.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Upcoming Plate Collection



Once a month the USR plate collection is donated to a particular cause or organization nominated by members of the congregation and voted on by the Social Responsibilities Council. For more information on the plate collection process, contact Carol Loscalzo, chair of the Social Responsibilities Council.

On **March 11th** the collection will be donated to the Community of Friends in Action, Inc., a group that helps immigrants in the Eastern Bergen County area and also works for better immigration policy.

As you can imagine, this is a very difficult time for immigrants, both documented and undocumented. Our friends in the Palisades Park area are anxious that Trump-ordered raids may begin at any time. The media does not help

because even though Obama ordered more deportations than any president before him, the fears arising from Trump's highly publicized rhetoric far outweigh those related to Obama's policies and practices.

CoFiA is talking to people on an individual basis and in small meetings and plans to present several "Know Your Rights" sessions at the local library, to try to allay some of the more unrealistic fears. But none of us know what will actually happen.

Our work is somewhat more difficult because we are presently "homeless." The church where we had provided our lunch program and other services suddenly withdrew their invitation. The reasons for this change are still unclear, but have nothing to do with Trump policies, any orders from Palisades Park, or the recent death of a homeless person who was being sheltered by the local Catholic Church. We are trying to locate another home base but in the meantime various restaurants, the Palisades Park public library, and others are providing space for meetings and meals. We are also considering renting a storefront, but the cost is probably prohibitive.

As the needs continue to grow, our services continue to be more in demand, and we are operating without a base, our need for funds also grows. **Donations may be made payable to USR with Community of Friends in Action** on the memo line. Many thanks.

Margaret White, Chair, CoFiA

### 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 with questions on how to join a team or make a donation.





# Know Her Truths:

## Behind Every Woman in Prison is Poverty, Drugs, or Violence

A Panel Discussion at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

**Saturday evening**

**March 11, 2017** Doors open at 6:30pm

### Speakers:

#### **Stephanie Kennedy, PhD, MSW**

is an Assistant Professor in the UConn School of Social Work. Her research examines the intersection of victimization and serious mental health issues for incarcerated women and highlights the need for the integration of trauma-informed care at all levels of the criminal justice system.

**Crystal Hayes, MSW** is a doctoral student in the UConn School of Social Work. Her research interests include Black feminist thought, reproductive justice, human rights, and carceral feminism.

**Lydia Thornton**, a certified paralegal and returning citizen after serving three years at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility.

**Did you know** that between 1980 and 2014 women's rate of incarceration increased by 700%, outpacing the rate of incarceration for men by more than 50%? Did you know that African American women are incarcerated at more than twice the rate of White women, and Hispanic women at more than 1.2 times the rate of White women? Did you know that women in many prisons, including those here in NJ, are typically shackled during labor and delivery? Explore these and other issues as the Reproductive Justice Committee and cosponsors host a panel event 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.

### **Please join us in conversation.**

Doors open at 6:30pm. Speakers begin at 7:00pm.

Light supper served.

**\$10 donation** requested to cover the cost of the food and setup.

*To make your reservation, please email [usr.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:usr.secretary@gmail.com)*

### **Location:**

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood –  
Anderson Auditorium  
113 Cottage Place  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

*Child Care provided with 2 weeks notice.  
Please email Ann Pareti at  
[usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com)*

### **Sponsored by:**

The Reproductive Justice Committee of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

### **Cosponsored by:**

The Racial Justice Committee of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
The Social Responsibilities Council of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
Central Unitarian Church Social Action Team  
Metropolitan AME Zion Church  
UUCP Racial & Social Justice Team

# Can Public Schools Thrive in the Changing Educational Landscape?



## Panel Discussion with:

**Julie Larra-Borst**

*NJ BATS, Special Education Parent advocate, Public education advocate, organizer Save Our Schools NJ*

**Rosie Grant**

*Paterson Education Fund Executive Director, children's advocate, public school advocate.*

**Stan Karp**

*Policy advocate Education Law Center, editor of Rethinking Schools, longtime Paterson teacher*

**Moderator: Lauren Wells, Ph.D.,** *educator, researcher, community organizer, and consultant known for her comprehensive, systemic, and collaborative approaches to change in schools and communities. MA Teachers College, Columbia University, Ph.D. in Education from University of California, Los Angeles.*

Presented by:

The Education Justice Committee at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
Co-Sponsored by: The Central Unitarian Church Social Action Team

## Friday evening March 24, 2017

in the Anderson Auditorium

Sandwiches and  
salad served at

## 7:00PM

Panel Discussion at 7:30

**the  
UNITARIAN  
SOCIETY of  
RIDGEWOOD**

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ  
Phone 201-444-6225

*Suggested Donation \$5.00*

*Child care available with 2 weeks notice. Please email Ann Pareti at [usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com)*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	2  7:00 SRC Council Mtg/ Conf. Rm  7:30 Connections Group Preview/Youth Rm  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	3	4  9:00 Annual Budget Drive Breakfast  9:00 (all day) Ministerial Search Committee/Upstairs Mtg Rm
5  <b>10:00 Service</b>  11:15 Town Hall Mtg./ Anderson  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 Transition Team//Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	8  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:30 One Book USR/Youth Rm  7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	9  7:30 Policing and Violence in the Time of Trump/ Anderson	10  7:00 Family Dinner & Singalong/ Anderson	11  9:00 (all day) Ministerial Search/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:00 "Know Her Truths" Panel Discussion/Anderson
12  <b>10:00 Service</b>  11:30 Membership Mtg/ Conf. Rm  3:00 Adult RE Class/ Conf. Rm	13  12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm	14  10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm  7:00 CYRE/ Youth Rm  7:00 Education Justice Mtg/ Conf. Rm	15  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:00 Racial Justice Comm./Conf. Rm	16  7:30 FF Rehearsal/ Anderson  7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	17  6:30 Parent's Night Out/RE Rm	18  6:00 Fellowship Feast/Anderson and Fellowship Rms
19  <b>10:00 Service</b>  11:30 P&J Meeting/Conf. Rm  11:30 Transition Team Mtg/Fellowship Rm	20  12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm	21  10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm  7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	22  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	23	24  7:00 "Can Public Schools Thrive"/ Panel Discussion/ Anderson	25  6:00 Fellowship Feast Snow Date/ Anderson and Fellowship Rms
26  <b>10:00 Service</b>  3:00 Art Reception/ Anderson	27  12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm	28	29  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	30	31	

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#### Board of Trustees

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	Jackie Nadler, Trustee

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## Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

### Mission Statement

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

### Invitation to Participate

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

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

### Anti-Racist Congregation

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

### Living the Welcoming

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

### Safe Congregation

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



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**NOW accepting articles for March 24th deadline**  
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