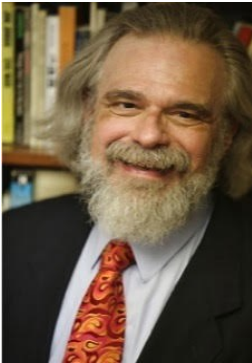
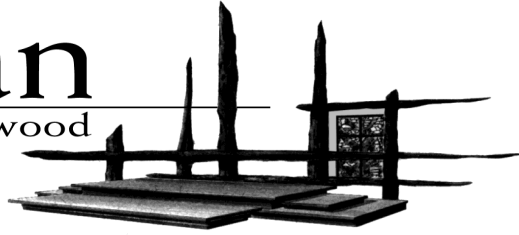


Unitarian

Society of Ridgewood



From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

This edition of the newsletter is finalized in the middle of an exciting week, during which the members of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi get to know each other, a week that will conclude with a congregational vote on the recommendation of the Ministerial Search Committee to call Dr. Lenzi to be the next settled minister of the Society.

I write from New Braunfels, Texas, where members of the Interim Ministers Guild are gathered for its annual seminar. Several of my interim colleagues also serve congregations hearing and voting on ministerial candidates this week. More interim congregations will have candidates visit next week, and a few later in the spring. It is an exciting time for congregations and ministers.

It is also an exciting week in the Unitarian Universalist Association, whose top leadership is going through a radical transition and 603 of whose member congregations are having white supremacy teach-ins over a two to three week period. This is a time for deep introspection within the Association, among its national and regional staff, and within its member congregations. This is the time for USR and other congregations to make real their commitment to anti-racism by examining white supremacy within our local and denominational bodies.

This is not a time for blame. It is a time for honest exploration and discussion. As with the process of calling a minister, the white supremacy teach-in is a time to live our Unitarian Universalist faith, by deeply living the principles of advancing justice, equity and compassion, by actively valuing the worth and dignity of every person, and by using the democratic process within the congregation and in society.

The disruption of leadership and challenge to business as usual are scary to many, and understandably so. But what is scary points to deeper self-understanding and truer living in the world. We are living in a time for great possibility and rebirth in Unitarian Universalism.

I think of the words of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., congressman and preacher: "Keep the faith, baby!"

In exercising your right under congregational polity to elect your own minister and in entering the deep and life-giving work of racial justice, you are keeping the faith.

Rev Dr TJ

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



Reflections

As you all hopefully know by now, I am coming to the end of my time at USR. As a religious educator, leaving well is an important component of doing my job well. Many religious professionals learn the “Three C’s” for a good departure: Closure, Celebration, and Covenant. As I see it, the Closure and Covenant pieces are mainly my responsibility. Many of you have already helped me in the Closure component - sharing kind words with me that included expression of disappointment about my departure, appreciation for my work with you, and understanding of the decision I have made. I so appreciate the generosity with which you have shared your thoughts.

As another part of closure, the RE Committee and I will do a review of what has been accomplished in the RE program during my time with you, which I will then share broadly with the congregation, in this newsletter next month and elsewhere. One more important part of closure is helping to ensure a smooth transition by setting my successor up for success to the best of my ability, which I’ll get to in a moment.

As for Covenant, it is important to have a mutual understanding of what my continued relationship with individuals at USR and the congregation as a whole can be after my departure. Most generally, I am bound by the [LREDA Code of Professional Practices](#), which reads, in part:

When leaving a position of religious education leadership for any reason, I will refrain from being involved in the process of selecting my successor. I will support my successor by leaving room for them to establish their own identity and leadership in the congregation... I will refrain from discussing any church/congregational matters on social media with congregants from a former church for a period of two years.

Partly to ensure I uphold this code as well as I can, and partly just because of the logistics of geography and family life, I do not plan to have any involvement at USR after my departure, at least for the foreseeable future. As for the process of selecting my successor, a DRE Search Committee is currently being formed by the Board of Trustees, and I encourage you to approach the Board with any questions you may have about this process.

Going back to setting my successor up for success - this includes having a full slate of volunteer religious education teachers ready to go in the fall, to give him or her time and space to get to know you all before she/he needs to undertake any recruiting efforts. To that end, the RE Committee and I will be staffing a table at Coffee Hour on **May 7**, **May 14**, and **May 21** to answer any questions you might have about being an RE teacher, and to recruit teachers! Please note that anyone interested in teaching must complete a background check and pass other safe congregation measures before becoming a teacher. If you have been thinking about teaching RE but are unsure of exactly what it entails, please come talk to us! If you haven’t been thinking about teaching RE, I invite you to read what follows, and then come talk to us!

As always, I’m available and happy to talk to any of you, for any reason. I’m usually in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am-3pm, and available by email at usr.dre1@gmail.com or cell phone at 207-409-6192.

In Faith,
Johanna

WHY SHOULD YOU TEACH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT USR??

Maybe you never considered teaching religious education before because...

"I don't have any kids in the religious education program!"

Teaching is a great opportunity to get to know the wonderful kids in our congregation, who you might otherwise just see in passing during coffee hour. Our congregations are one of the last places in society where we can intentionally create multigenerational community, and that starts in religious education!

Traditionally, teaching has been seen as the responsibility of the parents. But consider this: always being downstairs with the kids (year after year!) prevents parents from connecting more broadly with the congregation and dedicating their time and talents to other volunteer work that they may be better suited to. It also prevents others in the congregation from forming relationships with the families at USR. So let's change "tradition"!

"I don't know the first thing about teaching!"

That's ok! In addition to receiving training before you start and ongoing support from the Religious Education Staff, you will get a detailed lesson plan to follow each week. You will always be teaching with a partner, and the Floating Teacher, RE Assistant, and DRE are also circulating on Sundays to offer support if any issues arise during class time.

"I don't know enough about Unitarian Universalism to teach RE!"

Teaching RE is a great chance to learn more about Unitarian Universalism! In fact, some teachers have reported that they learned more about our faith while teaching than at any other time. You will be provided with curriculum that contains all you need to know - you are not expected to become an expert in UU prior to teaching.

"I don't want to miss Sunday Services!"

We all agree that Sunday Services are great! What you may not know is that there are 40 Sunday services from September - June (52 if you come in the summer!), and RE Teachers only commit to teaching on 10 of those Sundays. They still get to attend 75% of the Sunday Services each year, and have the opportunity to form meaningful relationships with the children while learning a lot on the remaining 25% of Sundays.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Planned Giving Committee is pleased to announce the grant recipients for 2017!

A total of \$9,360 was awarded, as follows:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project/Use</u>
Georgetta Walsh	\$3,000	SHARE bathroom renovation: The USR has been an advocate and supporter of SHARE, a Seniors house which sits across the street from the Society. All 28 rooms are occupied, some by members of the USR. There is an enormous need to update the facilities. This year's grants will go to updating some of the bathrooms.
Ed Silver	\$ 750	Honduran deportees legal representation: Ed Silver has been providing pro bono representation to two children (ages 14 and 16) who are in removal proceedings — meaning that the US Government is attempting to deport them back to Honduras. Ed is affiliated with Kids In Need of Defense (KIND) and they are representing the cases on their personal capacity. The one large cost is for translators. Our funds are to be used to help in this regard.
Sally Lewis	\$ 600	CAMP Reading materials: Another organization that has had significant USR involvement is C.A.M.P., a program assisting inner city children in Paterson. Sally Lewis is one of those leaders, and has requested funds to replace books -- The Reading Milestone Series. These books focus on the learning disabled who are often new to the English language.
Elizabeth Ames	\$3,000	NNJSC (Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition) is a humanitarian and human rights organization. Elizabeth Ames has requested funds to help support an asylum seeker in our area. Funds are used to provide medical care, ESL, job counseling, transportation, case management, socialization and counseling among other services.
Margaret White	\$2,000	Community of Friends in Action (CoFIA); Since 1999, CoFIA has operated a free lunch program in Palisades Park for day laborers who are looking for work. Abruptly last December, the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church withdrew their offer to use their space for any activities. The organization is trying to maintain their connection with the Guatemalan workers as well as search out a new home from which to serve. Our funds are helping in this effort.

As you can see, our members do great work in the greater community and we are proud to help support such causes. As you might imagine, we could not fully fund all of the requests. We would LOVE to be able to do more and that requires all of our help. When you wish to celebrate or honor an event, think of donating to the USR Endowment Fund. When you think of honoring a deceased loved one, think of the USR Endowment Fund. When you are thinking of your estate plan, why not talk to a committee member about making the USR Endowment Fund a part of that plan? We received an overly generous bequeathment last year of \$78,000 which allowed us to greatly increase the amount available for this years' grants. Become part of our local (and needed) social action platform!

Jeff Cagan (chair)

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Congregational Theme

The Program Council is seeking your suggestions for our Congregational theme for the upcoming year. Congregational theme is a relatively new concept for the USR, but serves us well by providing a useful focus by which our various committees can plan and coordinate activities and events. This year's theme has been "Racial Justice". Last year's theme was "Racial Justice in America and Black Lives Matter".

We all want a great theme to herald in an exciting upcoming year at USR. All suggestions are welcome! Please also provide any thoughts you may have as to how we all may best implement your suggested focus. The Program Council will be meeting with our settled minister candidate to discuss this topic, and awaits your feedback! Please contact Carol Loscalzo, Carolyn Musser, Steve Andrews, or Kevin Smith with thoughts or suggestions.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown-Bag Luncheon



Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **May 3, 2017** to be hosted by Lea McGough 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 let her give you directions if needed. All are welcome.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Hello from your youth coordinator,

The Youth Group has had a busy month of activities behind us and a busy one ahead of us too. The final district youth con of the year just finished up last weekend at Shelter Rock with 12 youth from our combined group attending. Our April 7th game night turned into an off-campus excursion as we met for dinner and laser tag at Palisades Mall. A big thank you to all of the parent drivers who carpooled and made transportation happen for all the kids. Our next youth group game night will be on **May 5th** at Ridgewood from 6-10 p.m., all are welcome!

We've had some important conversations in our Sunday meetings over the last month. We learned about the resignation of UUA President Peter Morales, and we are looking at the ways that white supremacy exists within UUism. We were also very grateful to have Rev. Lenzi visit with our group during her candidating week! It was a great opportunity for both of us to get to know each other as her ministry begins at USR.

Before year's end the youth group will be participating in the white supremacy teach-in on **April 30**, greeting our incoming 8th graders on **May 7th**, and doing a special bridging for our seniors during our meeting time on **May 21st**. We'll also be having bridging ceremonies for our graduating seniors coming up during Sunday morning services on **May 21st** at USR and **June 4th** at CUC.

Our Sunday meetings will stay at Ridgewood for May 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!

Thanks,
James

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

- May 7th **Teach-In on White Supremacy - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**
 In the light of events at the top level of leadership in the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Lives of Black Unitarian Universalists organization has asked local congregations to devote a Sunday morning to a teach-in on white supremacy, to explore how white supremacy exists in an institution that abhors white supremacy. USR is one of the 603 (as of April 25th) UU congregations answering the call. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; Jeremy Stepansky, jazz pianist
- May 14th **Mother Is A Verb - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**
 Mothers are and mothers do. "Mother" is a role and "mothering" is an active way of being in the world. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; Ian Laudano, tenor
- May 21st **Bridging - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**
 This Sunday we honor those senior youth who are completing high school through the UU ceremony of Bridging. A bridge may be the means to get from one place to another. It links different places. Bridging is a symbolic passage to the next stage of young adulthood. Musician: Ron Levy, piano
- May 28th **Family and Friends - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**
 When your minister learned that four adults he had always addressed as "Aunt" or "Uncle" were not actually relatives, he had to figure out who they were. Years later, his best friend told him, "You are my substitute brother." Then there are the numerous cousins: first, second, first once removed, and so on. Finally, there are the cousins who chose to be cousins in middle age. Huh? What do family and friendship mean?
- In honor of Memorial Day, the service will include a ritual of remembrance for deceased veterans in the Society and in our families. Musician: Ron Levy, piano/music of Clarinda Lin

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We send our condolences to the family of June Shaw who passed away in April. Our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time.

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 year's GA should be fun, even exciting and just think... it's in New Orleans.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



There's Still Time to Save the Date...

Nationally-known racial justice author and educator, Debby Irving, will be at USR on Thursday evening, **May 11** from 7 to 9. You can find her book, "Waking Up White", at the Social Responsibilities table at coffee hour.

This is the book the Glen Rock Superintendent of Schools chose as one of only two for the year for faculty and parents to read. Then they had her come to Glen Rock to lead two workshops in late April.

Don't miss this very special opportunity. Click [here](#) to read the flier.

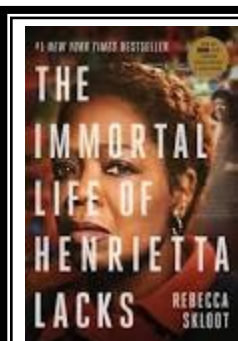
May 14th Plate Collection

The Offertory collection for the Mothers' Day service on **May 14** will be dedicated to Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). KIND's mission is to protect children who are fleeing to the United States, to ensure that no child appears in immigration court without legal representation. The non-profit organization trains and provides pro bono attorneys to represent unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in their deportation proceedings.

Children in deportation proceedings who appear without counsel have little chance of success. KIND has trained more than 17,000 attorneys and helped more than 14,000 unaccompanied children since opening its doors in 2009. The children represented by KIND receive all legal and other services free of charge.

KIND also works on the public policy level to change laws and practices that jeopardize unaccompanied children. The organization also helps children returning to their countries of origin to reintegrate back into the communities.

Society member Ed Silver and several of his legal colleagues from Columbia University's in-house legal department are working on a pro bono case assigned by KIND. They are representing two children who fled gang violence from Central America. The children are currently facing the threat of deportation, and, if not for KIND, would very likely join the thousands of children in a courtroom, facing a government attorney, without any assistance. Ed conveys his gratitude for the opportunity to help support KIND in the performance of its critical work.



One Book USR

The next meeting is **May 10** at 7:30 in REEB. We will be discussing The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. This fascinating book is about a poor Southern tobacco farmer whose cells were taken without her knowledge and still live decades after her death. All are welcome.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

The NNJSC Thanks You!

The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition is extremely grateful for your generous contribution to the April 2nd plate collection on our behalf, which came to \$1,350. In March, and again in April, we found homes for two new clients, one a 43-year old male from Togo, the other a 29-year old Palestinian female from the environs of Jerusalem. The contribution will go a long way toward helping these two deserving asylum applicants. Please see our brochure at the Social Responsibilities table and have a look at our website, www.nnjsanctuary.org.



Living the Welcoming

Living the Welcoming showed the film “From This Day Forward” on April 21st which was excellent. It followed the life of a transgender woman and her family. The New York Times reviewed the film on June 23, 2016.

It depicts the marriage of Ms. Shattuck’s mother, Marcia, and Michael, now Trisha, who raised Ms. Shattuck and her younger sister, Laura, largely in small-town Michigan. (Sharon Shattuck has contributed to The Times’s Op-Docs forum.)

Marcia, a physician, was the primary breadwinner when Ms. Shattuck was young, and Michael was a stay-at-home father. At an early date, Michael told Marcia about his penchant for cross-dressing. Trisha explains how Marcia probably hoped the practice would stay in the bedroom. (They wed in 1981.) When Ms. Shattuck was around 8, she found a snapshot of her father in drag; explanations ensued. Michael eventually pursued a transition, with electrolysis, rhinoplasty and tracheal shave (reducing the Adam’s apple), and still takes hormones. At Marcia’s insistence, he stopped short of gender-reassignment surgery. Today, Trisha alternates between men’s and women’s clothing. A soft-spoken landscape architect, she plays guitar and banjo and paints semiabstract canvases with titles like “Split Personality” and “Joyous Woman Into Being.” She and Marcia take walks and are physically intimate. In marriage and parenthood, one size doesn’t fit all. Marcia’s words at the wedding about surmounting differences speak volumes about love’s adaptability.” It is available by Netflix.

Two transgender women were present for the film and afterwards an honest, forthright discussion was held. Transgender is an issue that has been closeted for many years and now has become more openly discussed. The issue of postponing puberty was discussed as children grapple with feelings unknown to us. The more we educate ourselves the better we will be able to offer compassion and understanding to the men and women, boys and girls, who identify as transgender.

Please stay tuned for future programs on this delicate subject.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Upcoming Film

Peace and Justice Committee is presenting the film *Citizen Koch* on **May 19th** at 7:30. “AMERICA THEY’RE COMING FOR YOU NEXT!” That’s the warning from a Wisconsin state employee after her union rights were destroyed by a Republican governor funded by corporate and billionaire donors whose ultimate goal is to break the unions nationwide -- and cripple the labor-backed Democratic party.

Set against the rise of the Tea Party in the aftermath of the US Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United ruling, a citizen uprising to recall Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker collides with the Tea Party-aligned “Americans for Prosperity,” a group founded and lavishly financed by two of the world’s richest men — David and Charles Koch. As Republican working class voters find themselves in the crosshairs of their own party and its billionaire backers, they are forced to choose. Representatives from the organization Represent Us will be attending. It is the nation’s largest nonpartisan grassroots anti-corruption campaign. The campaign is bringing conservatives, progressives, and everyone in between to stop political bribery, end secret money and fix our broken elections. In this time of political uncertainty, we need to work together to take back our government. All are welcome.

Action Table

Your Peace and Justice Committee has been active setting up the Action Table asking you to sign letters and write postcards to keep our democracy working. We have gone on the Women’s March and the Tax March. Some of us attended the UULMNJ conference in April to learn what we can do to make a difference in NJ on issues important to us. Never before in our lives have we faced the challenges we are now facing to our democracy. “In at least two cases, the appointments may have already led to violations of the administration’s own ethics rules. But evaluating if and when such violations have occurred has become almost impossible because the Trump administration is secretly issuing waivers to the rules.” NYT 4/15/17. WE NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER! Please consider joining the Peace and Justice Committee. We meet on the third Sunday of the month after coffee hour. WE need to walk our talk even more and we need YOU. A few people cannot do this work alone. We welcome all friends and members. Contact Anita Young, chair with any questions.

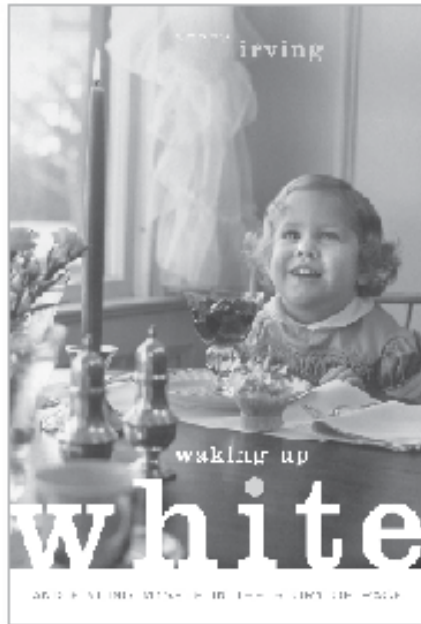
INTERFAITH LETTER TO CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD

APRIL 26, 2017

“As national, state and local, faith-based and religious groups representing millions of people of faith across the United States, we stand with Planned Parenthood to ensure women’s health access and protect moral autonomy for all.”

**Click here >>>>>>
to read the entire
letter**

THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL of
THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD *presents*



Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race

*A Presentation by Racial Justice Educator and author,
Debby Irving*

Thursday, May 11, 2017
7:00 – 9:00pm *Doors open at 6:30*

I'm a Good Person! Isn't That Enough?

Using historical and media images, Debby examines how she used her white-skewed belief system to interpret the world around her. Socialized on a narrow worldview, Debby explores how she spent decades silently reaffirming harmful, archaic racial patterns instead of questioning the racial disparities and tensions she could see and feel. This workshop is designed to support white people in making the paradigm shift from 'fixing' and 'helping' those believed to be inferior, to focusing on internalized white superiority and its role in perpetuating racism at the individual, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural levels. This presentation includes pauses for reflection, dialog, and Q&A.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. *Light refreshments will be served.*

Debby Irving struggled to make sense of tensions she could feel but not explain in racially mixed settings over her 25 years as a teacher and community organizer in Cambridge, MA. A graduate school course in 2009, *Racial and Cultural Identities*, led to her understanding racism as a systemic issue and her own whiteness as an obstacle to grappling with it. Her book tells how she went from well-meaning to well-doing.



CO-SPONSORS:

Central Unitarian Church Social Action Team
Racial & Social Justice Team of Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the Palisades
Emmanuel Baptist Church
YWCA Bergen County

the
**UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD**

Location:
113 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

*Child care available with
2 weeks notice.
Please email Ann Pareti at
usr.membership1@gmail.com*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trus- tee Mtg/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	<i>2</i> 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	<i>3</i> 1:00 First Wednesday Brown Bag Luncheon/Offsite 7:30 Nominating Committee/Conf. Rm.	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm 6:30 Parents' Night Out/RE	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10:00 Service 11:00 OWL Meeting/RE 11:30 Music Ministry/ Conf. Rm 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	<i>8</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	<i>9</i> 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:00 CYRE/ Youth Rm	<i>10</i> 7:00 One Book USR./Youth Rm 7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	<i>11</i> 7:00 Racial Justice "Waking Up White"/ Anderson	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 10:00 Service 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	<i>15</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	<i>16</i> 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	<i>17</i> 7:00 Racial Jus- tice Mtg./Conf. Rm	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm 7:30 Living the Welcoming Event/Fellowship Rm 6:30 Parent's Night Out/RE 7:00 Zen Retreat/ RE	<i>20</i> 9:00 Zen Retreat/ RE
<i>21</i> 10:00 Service 11:30 Peace & Justice Mtg/Conf. Rm 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm 3:00 Two-Piano Festival/ Anderson	<i>22</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 7:00 SRC Meet- ing/Upstairs Mtg. Rm 7:00 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10:00 Service 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	<i>29</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			

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