



**From the
Minister's Mailbox**

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are already in our fourth month together. Time has passed quickly, and here we are in November. It's one of my favorite months, actually. It can seem drab and dreary--usually the leaves have fallen from the trees and there's an increasing grayness to the skies. But I actually love November. I always think of it as a time to turn inward. To take stock of who we are, what we've been doing, what we want to change. It's a great time to clear out what's holding us back, to re-center ourselves as we move into the holiday season.

I think it's a blessing that the "holiday season" as we understand it in this country really does begin with Thanksgiving. For all the complications and challenges of a day that celebrates a single moment of togetherness in the midst of a much larger history of colonization and horror, there is at least one nugget of worth in Thanksgiving (perhaps quite a few more than one). It is the focus on gratitude. It is the focus on offering thanks for the blessings we enjoy, for the people who surround us, for the lives we are given. That opportunity to ground ourselves in thanks at the end of November can put us in a much better position to enjoy the holidays that follow with a sense of fullness rather than hurry, a sense of value rather than commercialism.

So this November, I want to invite you into a challenge. A gratitude challenge. For the month of November, spend time each day thinking about something you are grateful for. If you're on twitter, or instagram, or facebook, we'll do a hashtag throughout November: #USRGivesThanks. Every day, we encourage and invite you to post a word, a phrase, a poem, a picture, a reflection on something you are grateful for. Let's help each other find our best, most centered place as we journey together deeper into the autumn.

Blessings,
Rev. Sarah



Reflections

Halloween is one of my favorite holidays. Practically, I love dressing up in silly costumes with my friends and family. Theologically, I am humbled by the solemn reminder to take a moment of reverence for the dead and the invitation to remember those close to me who have been lost over the past year.

This time of year is marked by weather growing colder, geese flying south, and crops going dormant. It is a time in which the earth invites us to slow down from the hustle of hot Summer days and reflect on what matters most in our lives. For me, it is always a time of year where I feel called to re-connect with old friends, or try my hand at a grandparent's recipe that has been passed down in my family.

Whatever this season invites into the life of you and your family may it fill you and keep you warm as we transition towards cooler Winter months.

Wishing you peace,
Dylan Doyle-Burke



Hello from your youth coordinator,

Since the time of last writing our combined youth group has been busy with a variety of activities both near and far. The Sunday meetings for our combined youth group have been going strong over the past month with important discussions about our covenant, a faithful response to the shootings in Las Vegas, and talking about issues of power, gender, and consent in our world. We have some great meetings planned and would love to see everyone on Sunday mornings.

We met at the beginning of October for our first Friday Game Night of the year and had a great night of food, games, and movies. Our next one is Friday, **November 3** at CUC from 6-10pm, all youth grades 9-12 are welcome to join us! Last weekend we sent 10 of our teens to the first youth con of the year in Shelter Rock, NY. And the youth group is excited to be a part of CUC's Haunted Lantern Walk at their Halloween party on **October 28th**.

The youth group Sunday meetings will be held at CUC in October and November at our same time of 12:30-2:30 p.m. I'd also like to thank our staff and adult advisors in this year's youth group. Everyone's done an excellent job in the last few months to get our year off to a great start. Thank you all for the work you do!

James

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| November 5th | “Covenant and Promises” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi
This will be a Time for All Ages service.
Musician: Ron Levy, piano |
| November 12th | “Boundaries” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi
Musician: Ron Levy, piano |
| November 19th | “Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi and Dylan Doyle-Burke
Musician: Ron Levy, piano |
| November 26th | “What We Do Together” - Benjamin Van Dyne (Guest speaker)
Musician: Ron Levy, piano |



THIS MONTH AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY



A very special exhibition

Mother, Me

Reception:

Wed. evening, Nov. 1st
 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Live music and refreshments!

Remarks begin at 7pm.

Mother, Me is a creative storytelling project using photography, art and writing to explore transitions, personal experiences and ideas of motherhood. The project is a collaboration between the young mothers in residence at Zoe's Place (Children's Aid and Family Services) and Lewis Hine Fellow Jennifer Stratton. Each photograph, word written, and stitch embroidered was born from a series of workshops with the New Mothers Group.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **November 1, 2017** to be hosted by Brietta Savoie 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.

Unitarian Universalist Classes

The next UU class is scheduled for Sunday, **November 12th** in the Reeb conference room and will be led by Rev. Sarah. The class will explain what being a UU is and will provide a history about the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

A Big Thank You!

The recent plate collection for BVMI was a very generous \$1,050. Thanks to all for your generosity and support.

BVMI Trustee Mike Azzara

Offertory Collections

In 2009, the USR Board granted the Social Responsibilities Council (SRC) approval to use the Offertory Collection at Sunday services to collect money for social justice causes, as determined by the SRC. The deadline to submit applications for the next cycle is Sunday, **November 19, 2017**. The Council welcomes and considers all requests made by members and friends of the USR. The cause should be consistent with the mission of USR to be "a beacon of justice and love in the world". The applications are on the USR website & at the SRC table. Please complete the form and submit it to the office or send to Carol Loscalzo. Questions: ask Carol or any member of the SRC. All social justice chairs and co-chairs are on the Council.

November 19th Plate Collection for Table to Table

Table to Table is Northeast New Jersey's first and only food rescue program. Their mission is to redistribute fresh, wholesome food which would otherwise be wasted. By operating a local fleet of refrigerated trucks they're on call to pick-up fresh food from supermarkets, caterers, corporate cafeterias, and restaurants. This food is then delivered free of charge to over 80 recipient agencies such as soup kitchens, safe houses for women and children, homeless shelters, veterans and elder care programs. Table to Table is a volunteer organization funded by corporations and personal contributions. Its fundraising and management expenses never exceed 4%, which has earned it Charity Navigator's highest rating for 7 years in a row. Thank you for supporting Table to Table on **November 19th**.



Public Protest/Upstander Free Training

Free two-part training on Saturday, **November 18th**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central Unitarian Church, Paramus, NJ. Topics covered include how to go from being a bystander to being an "upstander"! And, how to be an effective and safe person of conscience in today's political environment. Click [here](#) for details and to register.

UULMNJ Annual Issues Conference Notes

The Conference was held on October 14th at the UU congregation of Monthmouth County in Lyncroft, NJ. Directory, Rev. Rob Gregson and Rev. Tracy Sprowls, the Board president, welcomed the attendants and introduced the new name for the organization, "UU Faith Action NJ", with the new logo above and an updated web page all thanks to our own Carol Wolf. Click [here](#) to read entire article.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Environmental Justice Committee

Did you know there is an **important ballot question** going before the voters on **November 7?** A YES vote on Public Question No. 2 would amend the State Constitution to ensure that money collected from polluters would be dedicated to repair, replace, or restore damaged natural resources. Many of New Jersey's polluted sites are located in communities least able to afford their own remediation programs. These communities have been shortchanged. For many years Trenton has consistently used the fines collected from polluters to plug holes in the budget and for other uses. Not only is this a matter of protection of resources it is a matter of justice for places left behind. Please take the time to vote YES on Question #2 and keep the funds locked in for their intended use, the protection and preservation of our State's fragile natural resources.

Carpooling to Movie at CUC

Members of the Environmental Justice Committee will be offering rides to the fascinating movie "Chasing Coral", shown at Central Unitarian Church on **November 17**. If anyone would like to carpool please contact Peter Orsini to arrange rides. Please see flyer about this movie on page 10.

UU Outreach Auction Saturday November 4th

Please join us on Saturday, **November 4, 2017**, 6:30 p.m. at Central Unitarian Church for our annual UU Outreach Auction. This is a wonderfully-inspiring evening where the three Bergen County UU congregations gather to share stories and support our neighbors.

Since the first Auction in 2000, this Gala Event has raised over \$550,000.

This year's charities include:

- (1) **Center for Hope and Safety** provides access to safe housing and services for women and children forced to flee their homes due to domestic violence.
- (2) **Community of Friends in Action** helps immigrant workers and their families and works for better immigration policy.
- (3) **Family Promise of Bergen County** provides shelter for families, walk-in dinners for 120 people daily, transitional housing and other services.
- (4) **Holley Childcare & Development Center** is a home and treatment facility for children who are emotionally handicapped as a result of abuse, neglect, poverty or abandonment.
- (5) **Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative** utilizes volunteer healthcare professionals to provide free primary care for 1,100 low-income, working Bergen County residents

100% of the proceeds go directly to these charities!! This gala evening features a live auction and Tricky Tray, as well as hors d'oeuvres, desserts and much more! Bids are received from \$10 to over \$1000, allowing everyone to participate and demonstrating that when we work together, we are greater than the sum of our parts!

Join us for an evening of fun *and support our friends and neighbors in need.*

See Inge Spungen at coffee hour to buy tickets (\$35), donate items for the tricky tray or auction, or join the dessert baking brigade.

Or go to uuoutreachauction@gmail.com. Visit us at uuoutreachauction.org and Like us on Facebook.

Central Unitarian Church is located at 156 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Peace and Justice Committee



The Peace and Justice Committee wants to encourage you to take actions! We can make a difference, one person at a time. Michael Moore has spoken out since he was 17 years old for social justice. After attending the play by Michael Moore, we are presenting a modified:

What YOU Can Do List

1. **Make the Daily Call**

Go to **5Calls.org** or go to the App store and download the **5 Calls** app. All you have to do is type in your zip code and the app will pull up the names of your elected representatives, list the issues of the day and dial the number for you.

2. **Make the Monthly Visit**

Your member of Congress has a local office in your town or nearby. So visit both of your U.S. Senators (often the nearest federal building). Go there and ask to speak to their aide about the issues we're facing. Also don't forget to visit the local office (or the state capitol office) of your State Representatives/Assemblyperson, and your State Senator.

3. **Show up at Town Halls**

There's an excellent group that formed after Trump's appointment by the Electoral College called Indivisible. Go to www.indivisibleguide.com and type in your zip code to find all the latest local action you can take near your home. This includes details on when and where your local reps will be holding town halls.

4. **The Electoral College Must Go**

The Electoral College was specifically designed to protect slavery. It is antiquated, racist, and undemocratic. Twice in the last 17 years, the candidate that the majority of our fellow citizens chose to be President was denied the White House. It is time to get rid of it. Fortunately, there's a momentum building behind the **National Popular Vote** interstate compact. This bill will guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It has been enacted into law in 11 states with 165 electoral votes. This interstate compact will take effect when enacted by states with 105 more electoral votes. It has passed at least one house in 12 additional states with 96 electoral votes and been approved unanimously by committee votes in two additional states with 27 electoral votes. Please visit **NationalPopularVote.com** and help get rid of the Electoral College.

5. **YOU Must Run for Office**

I know this is the last thing you want to do. But if we keep leaving the job to the distant, lame, pathetic, political hacks who have sold us down the river, then what right do we have to complain? This is the only way it can get fixed—when you and I decide to put in our time—even if it is a brief time, and run for office. We need good candidates for 2018 elections, and not just Congress and State Houses, but also school boards, city councils, and county commissions. Why not take out a petition today and run next year.

6. **YOU MUST BECOME THE MEDIA**

Stop Complaining about the media, stop wishing they were something they're not, find the ones who are doing a good job and then start your own media network by sharing their work and your work on the internet. Use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media sites to spread the news and information. Make sure all your friends and family are signed up. You can do this!

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Racial Justice Committee

There was a very good article, link below, in the *New York Times*, October 21, about current activities of Black Lives Matter. The original leaders opted for a decentralized movement and this article reports on the rationale for that model and some of their recent actions across the country.

[Black Lives Matter is Democracy in Action - The New York Times](#)

Craft Fair Bake Sale Donations and Volunteers Needed

Please contribute baked goods to the USR Craft Fair Bake Sale. All proceeds go directly to CAMP. The Bake Sale will take place all day Saturday November 18th. Drop off items in the USR kitchen on Friday, November 17th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., or anytime during the day, Saturday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (the earlier the better). Home-baked goods are highly-preferred. Individual items such as cookies, muffins, cupcakes or pre-sliced breads work best. Contact Judy to let her know you're donating. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Bake Sale. Any time is most appreciated! Thank you!!

NJSC Searching for New Host Family for Young Female

A 17-year old Mexican female, currently held as an unaccompanied minor by KidsPeace in Bethlehem, PA, will be turning 18 on November 18, 2017 and will be sent by ICE to an adult detention center if alternative housing cannot be found for her by that date. She was forcefully sent here by her mother for her own protection in September 2016, after they had been attacked by the Narcos Drug gang. She speaks Spanish and conversational English, and is in the 11th grade. Her lawyer hopes she will obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status soon, and her pending asylum case will be handled at the Newark Asylum office, probably in 3-6 months. A. enjoys school, wants to go to college, would like to work, and enjoys dancing (she was a competitive dancer in Mexico), drawing and ceramics. She likes animals and has no known medical issues. The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition would like to find a family to host her under our auspices (with our financial/caseworker help). If you or anyone you know would be interested in learning more about this important opportunity to make a huge difference in a young person's life, please contact Elizabeth Ames.

SAFE CONGREGATION



AED/CPR Training

It is that time of year again. Please read and consider registering for this training. The Safe Congregation Response Team is offering AED/CPR training on Saturday, **January 6, 2018** (snow date: **January 13**) from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. It will include basic CPR for adults, children and infants as well as AED training. The team is pleased to offer this excellent training free of charge. To register, email Chandrika Chowdhry at usr.secretary@gmail.com. Questions? Ask Carol Loscalzo.

**SOCIETY CAFE
CONCERT SERIES
2017 - 18 SEASON PRESENTS...**



SHERMA ANDREWS

Singer/Songwriter

JAZZ, R&B



Friday, November 3rd

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

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

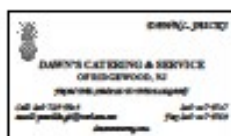
113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ

\$20 in advance via PayPal on our site:

www.societycafeconcertseries.com

\$25 at the door

\$5 at the door for ages 12-17, must be accompanied by an adult



**Please patronize
our sponsors**



CRAFTS in RIDGEWOOD



A Fundraising Event to benefit the Youth Development Program C.A.M.P. in Paterson, NJ



**FREE
ADMISSION**

*Reception:**

**Friday evening
November 17th
*7PM - 9:30PM**

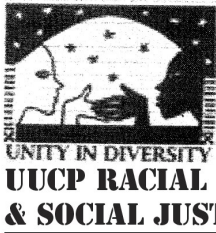
**Saturday
November 18th
10AM - 5PM**

26 years of fine crafts hand-made for the holidays

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ◇ Sculpted Ceramics | ◇ Original art greeting cards, boxes and books |
| ◇ Functional woodenware | ◇ Pillows and knitted items |
| ◇ Handcrafted jewelry and accessories | ◇ Soaps, body creams |
| ◇ Fine art photography and prints | ◇ Japanese folk art |
| ◇ Encaustic paintings | ◇ Children and Family items |
| ◇ Holiday decorations | ◇ Handcrafted birdhouses |
| ◇ Baskets | |

For information, please call
the USR office at 201-444-6225
or Marcy at 201-825-7264

The Unitarian Society
of Ridgewood
113 Cottage Place Ridgewood, NJ

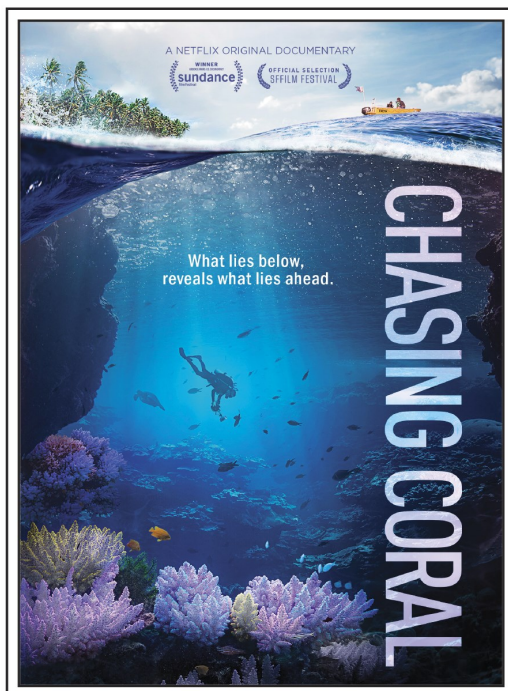


**Central Unitarian
Social Action Team**

the SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES
COUNCIL of the
UNITARIAN SOCIETY
of RIDGEWOOD

CHASING CORAL

FRI., NOV. 17TH, 7:15 P.M.



Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. The biggest story of our changing climate is hidden beneath the waves and a team of divers, scientists and filmmakers have finally captured it on film. Witness the tale of beauty, hope, and adventure that the *New York Times* calls an “emotional race against time”.

“It’s not too late for coral reefs. . . indeed, for many other ecosystems that are facing challenges from climate change. It’s still possible to reduce the rate at which the climate is changing, and that’s within our power today.” – Dr. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg (directed by Jeff Orlowski, 1 hour, 33 minutes)

**Central
Unitarian Church**

156 Forest Ave., Paramus (assembly room)
cucfilms@emaildodo.com • 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
			<i>1</i> 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café 6:30 Art Reception/Anderson 7:30 One Book USR/Conf. Rm	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9:00 UU Baking/USR Kitchen 6:30 Friday Night Out/RE 7:00 Society Café Concert/Anderson	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 10:00 Service “Covenant Promises” Rev. Sarah 11:30 Music Ministry/Conf. Rm	<i>6</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustees/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	<i>7</i> 7:00 Connections/Youth Rm	<i>8</i> 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café 1:00 Brown Bag Luncheon with Rev. Sarah/Fellowship	<i>9</i> 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/Anderson	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 10:00 Service “The Gift of Boundaries” - Rev Sarah 11:30 UU Class/Conf. Rm	<i>13</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	<i>16</i> 7:00 Racial Justice/Conf. Rm 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/Fellowship	<i>17</i> 1:00 LIFFT/Conf. Rm 7:00 Craft Fair Reception/Anderson	<i>18</i> 10:00 Craft Fair/Anderson and Fellowship
<i>19</i> 10:00 Service Thanksgiving Service - Rev. Sarah and Dylan 11:15 Social Media Tutorial/Anderson 11:30 P&J/Conf. Rm 11:30 Reproductive Justice Mtg/Upstairs Mtg. Rm	<i>20</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	<i>21</i> 7:00 Connections/Youth Rm	<i>22</i> 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog 6:30 Faith Talks at the Steel Wheel	<i>23</i> 7:00 Adult Choir/Fellowship	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 10:00 Service - Guest Speaker	<i>27</i> 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 2:00 70+ Tea with the Minister/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 7:00 Adult Choir/Fellowship		

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Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Mission Statement

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

Invitation to Participate

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

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

Anti-Racist Congregation

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

Living the Welcoming

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

Safe Congregation

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



the
**UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD**

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



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