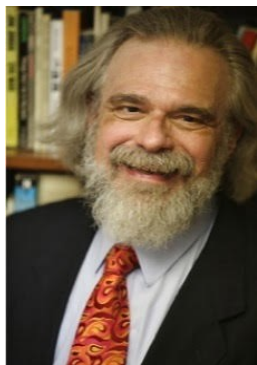
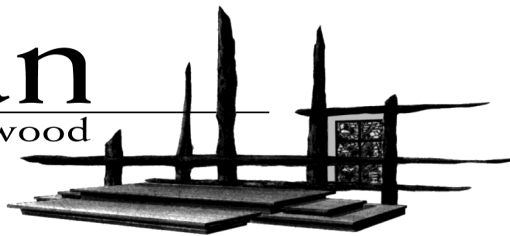


Unitarian

Society of Ridgewood



From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

After a long hot summer (in more ways than one), the cool days of autumn are returning. I might even close some of the windows that I have not closed for months!

Not that there is not still a lot of heat. The final weeks of the election campaigns are upon us and this election season is hot at many levels. What can we do but keep cool heads and make our own best judgments?

In times such as these, the importance of liberal congregations as free spaces is evident. In a free space individuals can hold their own opinions – as vastly different as they may be – and be respected. By liberal, I mean in this context openness and generosity of thought, not a particular set of beliefs (religious or political) on a spectrum of beliefs. It is clear that Unitarian Universalists as a whole stand against all forms of oppression, which means standing against much of the social conservatives' agenda. But this does not mean that social conservatives cannot be liberal in their religion or welcome to our community.

During the discussions in the early 1980s that led to the formulation of the Unitarian Universalist Association's statement of purposes and principles, a member of my congregation found the statement affirming the worth and dignity of every person distressing. "Does that mean we should value the worth and dignity of Adolph Hitler? Must we let Hitler join the Society?" I responded that if Adolph Hitler wanted to join, we would have to let him join. But I would hope that the congregation would not be a place he would want to join.

And here lies the rub. Some opinions and actions in themselves threaten freedom and, therefore, the liberal religious congregation as a free space. More than thirty years later, I might answer the question differently. As Unitarian Universalist historian Conrad Wright noted in his book *Walking Together: Polity and Participation in Unitarian Universalist Churches*, every community has boundaries, even if they are fuzzy boundaries. Kenneth Patton wrote of the meetinghouse as a place for the conflict of opinion. But he drew his own boundaries in his ministry and neither the Charles Street Meeting House nor the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood under his leadership was congenial to every possible idea or belief. More than one congregation has had to expel a threateningly disruptive member and even deal with criminal behavior.

As a religious people, we need to examine again and again what contributes to the vitality of a liberal religious community – a free space – in a time when there are forces hostile to freedom and human dignity at loose in the world. And we need to examine what threatens its vitality. We need to nurture the one and defend our space from the other.

Membership in a liberal congregation is open; however, its values must be clear enough that not only would a fascist not want to join, but any individual holding fundamentally anti-liberal attitudes would be questioned about his (or her) motives for joining -- but with an open mind. Like the rest of us, that person is on a journey.

There will be heated discussions as we get closer to the election. Let us engage respectfully as well as advocate. Let us remain committed to the principles of a free and open religious community and to the Unitarian Universalist movement. We need these for ourselves and for the free and open society we treasure.

And, if the discussion gets too hot, take a break to step out into the cool autumn air.

Rev Dr TJ

Minister's direct office line: 201-345-9587

Cell: 646-515-4729

Email: usr.minister@gmail.com



Reflections

For the first month of Religious Education classes and Sr. Youth Group each year, the theme is “Covenant”. Each year, the classes create covenants together, which remain as living documents, posted in the classrooms each Sunday to be referred to and updated as needed. If you ask any child or youth at the society what a covenant is, I expect they will be able to give you a good answer.

Why is covenant so important? Because Unitarian Universalism is a creedless religion, we do not have one common belief that binds us all together. What does bind us together is our relationships - with each other, with our neighboring congregations, with our region, and with the Unitarian Universalist Association - and our relationships are governed by the covenants we make with one another. In fact, covenant is so important to Unitarian Universalism that we are often called a Covenantal Religion. All member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote our [7 Principles](#).

While visiting our Sr. Youth Group this past Sunday, I was impressed by how much they “get” covenant, and was reminded again that we adults have so much to learn from our young people. There was a playful moment when I teased another adult in the group for a food preference, and one of the youth immediately said “hey, you yucked his yum!” This is just one of the many innovative phrases on the Sr. Youth Group Covenant, and so I thanked the youth for calling me back to it and apologized to the other adult for yucking his yum.

Our teachers get it, too. This Sunday, a teacher walked into a classroom, and noted the covenant on the wall that he had helped to create the week before. “I realized I forgot to use positive language,” he said “they might want to fix that this week.” The pedagogical value of positive language aside, this teacher was recalling that a covenant is not a list of rules - don’t yell, don’t hit, etc... -- but a set of promises we make to one another. While we could promise to not yell, a better promise is to listen respectfully and to value everyone’s voice.

Though the adult congregation does not create a covenant at the start of each church year, we do have a wonderful [congregational covenant](#). This is a good time to review that covenant, and remember the promises that we have made to each other at USR.

One of my goals this year is to help us all see Unitarian Universalism as a full-week faith, not a Sunday-only faith. In that vein, here are two exercises around covenant you can do at home:

- Create a family covenant. Post it in a prominent place in your home. Update as needed.
- Imagine an alternate universe where all political candidates agreed to a covenant similar to our congregational covenant at the start of election season. Would you like to live there?

We are lucky to be in a community that strives to live by such an ambitious covenant. I look forward to working in covenant with you all this year!

In faith,
Johanna

RE Open House

Sunday, October 2, 2016 — 9:45 am to 11:45 am

Have you ever wanted to invite a friend to the Society, but never found the right time? Do you have a coworker or neighbor who you think is really a Unitarian Universalist at heart? Do your kids friends wonder why they have to promptly leave Saturday night sleepovers to make church on Sunday morning? Invite them to our RE Open House on October 2! Everyone will start in Anderson for a Time for All Ages, then visiting children will join their age-appropriate RE Class, while visiting parents will meet with Johanna to learn about our religious education program and have all their RE-related questions answered. Rev. Tony will be available to meet with visitors after the service to offer a broader perspective on congregational life at USR. Please contact Johanna at usr.dre1@gmail.com or [207-409-6192](tel:207-409-6192) for more information.

FROM THE BOARD

Your Board of Trustees worked during the month of September to formulate our goals for the year:



1. **Foster Increased Engagement of Friends and Members of our Congregation**
 - a. **Create a culture of being a welcoming place**
 - b. **Increase the level of volunteer activity**
 - c. **Increase participation in the activities offered by the Congregation**
2. **Improve Communication**
 - a. **Leverage Technology to improve inward and outward facing communication**
 - b. **Evaluate and improve communication within our organizational structure**
 - c. **Raise the profile of the USR within the larger community**
3. **Focus on Key Issues of Institutional Stewardship**
 - a. **Assess the current and future needs to maintain and improve Facilities and Technology Infrastructure**
 - b. **Support the RE Program to Grow and Enhance our Educational Programming**
 - c. **Review and Evaluate how we raise and Spend Money**
 - d. **Maintain / Increase Membership**
 - e. **Support the Ministerial Search and Interim Ministry Process**
4. **Plan for the Future**
 - a. **Prepare a short term and long term Capital Improvement Plan**
 - b. **Review and Assess our Long Term Strategic Plan**

Our next step will be to assign action steps to work towards achieving the goals and associated objectives. I would like to thank the Ministerial Search Committee for the good work that they are doing.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

In keeping with our mission statement, the USR provides many ways to get involved! You are invited to participate in a wide variety of committees and volunteer opportunities — all outlined in the Committee and Volunteer Opportunities section of our website — including social justice, arts and music, social events, building and grounds and sharing your skills to help keep our Society running smoothly.

To look at the current volunteer opportunities, please click [here](#). Thank you.

SEARCH NEWS

COMMITTEE

An Update from the USR Ministerial Search Committee

Survey Update: Over 50% of the members submitted a survey.

Cottage Meetings:

- Over 50 members or friends have attended Cottage Meetings.
- Additional Cottage Meeting scheduled for **October 2nd** after the Service. Sign up at the Welcome Table or click [here](#). Limited to 8 participants.

Stay Tuned: There will be a report to the Congregation, an overview of survey and Cottage Meeting input.

Next Step: Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop Weekend on October 22nd

- The Beyond Categorical Thinking program helps UU congregations examine ways that they can be more inclusive in their consideration of ministerial candidates.
- Saturday, October 22nd: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Lunch included.)
- Sunday, October 23rd: Beyond Categorical Thinking Service: 10:00 a.m.
- Sign-up at the Welcome Table or click [here](#) to sign up for the workshop.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Annual Budget Drive

Thank you very much for your generosity during last year's Annual Budget Drive.

Did You Know?...

The members and friends of the congregation made a total financial commitment of \$396,645.

The Annual Budget Drive Committee members this year are: Bob Shoemaker (Chair), Bea Cronin, Peter Duran, Cliff Griep, Doris Griffin, Eileen Jarrett and Judy Silver. Please feel free to speak with them throughout the year if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Annual Budget Drive.

Save the Date for Crafts in Ridgewood

The Crafts in Ridgewood event is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year on **November 18th and 19th**. Mark your calendars! We will have plenty of amazing gift ideas for your holiday shopping with new and favorite crafters. This event was started 25 years ago as part of the Society's ongoing Social Responsibilities tradition. It provides additional funding for Community Action with a Ministry for People (C.A.M.P.), an after school and preschool program in Paterson.

Our dedication to the C.A.M.P. program began 38 years ago and continues thanks to the wonderful volunteers from our congregation who make time to tutor students, teach classes, sit on task force committees and work with Citizens for Swimming.

Please help us celebrate in November. Admission is free and 25% of the vendors' profits go to C.A.M.P. If you'd like to be a part of the fun, please contact Marcy Cagan. There are a variety of volunteer possibilities ranging from a one-hour commitment to being part of the team. We'd love to have you.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Congregational Dinners October 22, 2016

This year's Congregational Dinners are Saturday, **October 22nd**. The goal of this popular event is to help older and newer members and friends get to know each other better in a small, homey setting. Each guest brings a part of the meal. Please sign up [here](#) or on Sunday after the service. You will hear from your host/hostess within a few weeks. Thank you.

Please email Holly Nolan if you have any questions.



First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **October 5, 2016** 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 that you are coming and to let her give you directions if needed. All are welcome.

News from your Membership Committee

We are pleased to announce two new members have joined the USR since June 2016. Specifically, we welcome Nyingje Stephanie Aruta and Charlotte Baldassari. And, we have had over 25 visitors between the months of May and August alone! Please notice guests with handwritten name tags. Introduce yourself to those new to you and include them in conversations during coffee hour. The Membership Committee is hosting a newcomer brunch on Sunday, **October 23rd**. Invitations to all visitors will be sent out this week. Please feel free to contact Ann Pareti, Membership Administrator, if you would like to attend the brunch. Email her at usr.membership1@gmail.com or call her at 201-444-6225.



Ride Your Bike to Sunday Service!

The outcome of the Green Sanctuary team survey was overwhelmingly positive, and we have now purchased and set up a bike rack next to the Reeb House garage. Thank you for your support. Make good use of the new addition to our grounds by riding your bike to services and otherwise! If you have any questions, please contact Laura directly.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

October 2nd

“The Head of the Year” - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson

Rosh Hashanah (the head of the year) begins at sunset today. This service will draw upon the Jewish traditions for this day. It will also include two new beginnings: the Commissioning of Teachers, led by the minister and the director of religious education, Johanna Seale, and the new adult choir under the leadership of Ron Levy.

During part of the service, following the Time for All Ages, parents new to the Society and/or Unitarian Universalism will meet with Johanna Seale. Following the service they will meet with the Minister. Invite your friends who might be interested in the Unitarian Society’s program of children’s religious education to USR’s first Religious Education Open House.

October 9th

“Truth and Reconciliation” - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson

Yom Kippur, which begins at sunset on the 11th, is the most sacred day on the Jewish calendar; it is the Day of Atonement. One understanding of atonement is that it requires truth telling and reconciliation. This Message explores the religious understanding of Yom Kippur and a modern practice of truth and reconciliation.

October 16th

“Lessons from the Adventures of Robin Hood” - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson

Some believe Robin Hood to be a fictional character, but there is evidence of a historical figure of whom tales are told. From medieval tales to modern mass media, the adventures of Robin Hood have lessons to teach. Today’s Message draws upon *Robin Hood: People’s Outlaw and Forest Hero: A Graphic Guide* [PM Press, 2011] by Paul Buhle, retired senior lecturer at Brown University, and the British TV series *The Adventures of Robin Hood* [1955-1960].

October 23rd

“Beyond Categorical Thinking: Clearing A Space for the New to Take Place” - Message by Mary Esther Johnson, BCT facilitator; service led by the Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson

Because we are each a part of the interdependent web of all existence; we acknowledge the delusion of any exclusions.

Therefore by the words we speak, the company we keep, the actions we take and the vows we complete; we reflect who we are at our core.

Beyond Categorical Thinking: The cleared space where the new can take place!

Beyond Categorical Thinking is part of the ministerial search process for member congregations of the Unitarian Universalists Association. There will be an all-Society workshop on Saturday, **October 22nd**. It is important that members attend both the workshop and the service.

October 30th

“Atheists, Humanists and Agnostics who Found a Home at USR” - Eric Fuhrman, Holly Nolan, Elisabeth Mannschott and Steve Riskind

Join us for this lay-led service as members tell their personal stories about finding a home in a Unitarian Universalist congregation.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Society Singers and Children's Chorus Update

Just a reminder of rehearsals and performances for the Society Singers and the Children's Chorus:

October 2	Society Singers
November 6	Children's Chorus
December 4	Society Singers
December 25	Society Singers and Children's Chorus
February 5	Children's Chorus
March 5	Society Singers
April 2	Children's Chorus
May 7	Society Singers
June 4	Children's Chorus

Rehearsals for the Society Singers will take place on the three Thursdays leading up to the performance, in Anderson (unless there is a change) at 7:30 p.m. and will generally last between 1 1/4 and 1 1/2 hours. In addition, there will be a warm-up rehearsal the morning of the service, commencing at 8:45 sharp. Singers can elect to participate in as many services as desired; attendance is required at TWO of the Thursday rehearsals AND the Sunday morning warm-up. The children will rehearse on the three Sundays of their performance, in the Fellowship room at 9 a.m.

THIS MONTH AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY



A Walk on the Wild Side: Photographs by Chris Dei

October 8 - 30, 2016

Artist's Reception
Sunday, October 23rd
from 2-5PM

SAVE THE DATE:

Mixed Media Work by Naomi Kahan – Reception Sunday, Nov. 13 from 2-5pm

MINISTRY COUNCIL

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We send our heart-felt wishes to Members **Steve and Regina Andrews** as Steve recuperates, at home, following open-heart surgery. He would love to talk to you, so please feel free to call him at home.

We are very saddened to announce the sudden death of Member, **Mary Boutin**, who died last Wednesday, September 21st. Mary was a member of USR for 31 years. She will surely be missed. A Memorial Service is being planned for Sunday, **October 9th** at 1:00 p.m.

Former Member, **Jack Ritter** (husband of the late June Ritter and father of Robin Ritter, all long-time members of USR) passed comfortably on September 7th at his home in Naples, FL. There will be a celebration of his life on the anniversary of his 90th birthday, December 17th, in Naples. Memorial donations may be made to SHARE, Inc., 104 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 or Avow Hospice, 1095 Whipoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105.

Exploring Aging as a Time of Growth

For those of you who may have missed the Journey Through Aging Workshop at the USR earlier this year, one of our key topic leaders, Anne Wennhold, speaker/workshop leader on the topic of Conscious Aging, will be conducting an exploratory discussion on aging at the Nyack Library (at 59 S Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960) on **October 13th** from 2 pm - 4 pm. Titled *Exploring Aging as a Time of Growth*, Anne will invite participants to share their thoughts about their own experiences while providing background information on the current culture and expectations for the later years of life. The event is free but registration is requested. To register call the Library at [845-358-3370 ext.214](tel:845-358-3370).

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Plate Collection

The plate collection on **October 9th** will benefit Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, www.bvmi.org, which provides free primary and specialty care for working, uninsured residents of Bergen County who do not qualify for coverage under Medicaid or other programs. Celebrating its 7th anniversary in Hackensack, BVMI relies on volunteer doctors and nurses who serve about 1000 registered patients who make 6000 visits each year. Despite increased coverage under the Affordable Care Act, there are an estimated 50,000 Bergen Co. residents without coverage, including undocumented residents, who rely on the hospital emergency rooms for care as a last resort.

August Plate Collection

Our August Social Responsibilities plate collection supporting Center For Food Action raised \$1,183. This will help feed many of our Bergen county neighbors in need. If you would like to contribute but missed the opportunity checks can be sent to USR at any time with CFA on the memo line and we will insure that the funds are sent to them. Thank you all for your generosity.

Save the Date—UU Outreach Auction

Saturday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.

All three UU congregations in Bergen County are teaming up to support some of our favorite charities: Center for Food Action, Center for Hope and Safety (Shelter our Sisters), Children's Aid and Family Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Family Promise and Holley Childcare and Development Center. Spending the evening with old friends and new as we share an evening of fun, great food, tricky tray and live auction at Central Unitarian Church in Paramus. Click [here](#) for more details. Check with Inge Spungen for additional information.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Thanks to the Family Promise Volunteers!

We had a nice Labor Day weekend. A new family moved in on Sunday, as we started our assignment. There were 3 families, comprised of 3 women and 6 girls - that was different! Our cooks were Karen Ramsahai and her 3 children - Libby, Lexi, and 2 year old Levi; and Christian Reinhardt, Marijan Por and their daughter Zora, and her best friend and friend's mom/boyfriend Stevie and Dave. The middle-school age girls really hit it off both days. There was a lot of talk about what to expect at school in the next couple of days, and jump-rope and decorating cupcakes were also popular activities. I think Levi became the human "doll" for everyone to play with. Thanks also to Ron Hirschman for bringing food and helping with cooking on Sunday, Elisabeth Mannschott for helping with play on Monday, Georgetta Walsh and Betsy stayed overnight on Sunday and let everybody sleep in on Labor Day, Bob Shoemaker and Carolyn Musser stayed overnight on Monday. Thanks also to my husband, Steve Jackson, for filling in the blanks with everything from shopping to dishwashing.

Our next assignment is in March. I will be away on vacation, so Sean Brennan has agreed to fill in for me. I will send out the notices though, starting in January.

There is a Family Promise Gala on Wednesday, October 19th, honoring Nancy Woods, the long-time Director of Volunteers who is now in her nineties. Let me know if you are interested in donating something to the auction, see details below.

Betsy Longendorfer

Family Promise 30th Anniversary Gala

The Family Promise 30th Anniversary Gala, *Promises Kept...Promises for Tomorrow*, is coming up on Wednesday, October 19th at the Stony Hill Inn. We are proud to honor Founder and President Emerita Nancy Woods at the Gala this year!

Our host and support congregations have always been very generous in supporting the Family Promise Gala – thank you! Our hope is that every congregation will participate in this year's Gala in some way in honor of our 30th Anniversary, and Nancy Woods. Here are some ways you can be a part of it:

- Donate an item or basket for the silent auction — click [here](#) for ideas — but feel free to be creative and come up with your own!
- Come to the Gala! Tickets are \$150 each, or \$1,250 for a table of 10

Purchase an ad in the printed Gala Journal. Ads range from \$50 for a line of “wishes” to \$500 for a full-page ad. Ads can be for your congregation, to honor someone special, or whatever you choose.

To purchase tickets or find information on Journal Ads click [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact Jane He, Director of Development at 201-833-8009 or jhe@bergenfamilypromise.org.

www.bergenfamilypromise.org



“Helping homeless working families become self-sufficient.”

UULMNJ ISSUES CONFERENCE

Our UULMNJ annual 'Issues Conference' will be held on **October 15, 2016** at The Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. This meeting is essential to shaping our legislative initiatives for the upcoming legislative session and the guest speaker for the meeting is Chris Crass. It starts at 3:00 PM and runs into early evening, dinner included, but no one is required to stay for the entire meeting if there is somewhere else you need to be.. You can be part of the discussion that shapes the future of New Jersey. Add your voice by registering to attend on line at UULMNJ.org. Click [here](#) to view flyer.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Social Responsibilities Council Update

This month finds several changes at the SRC. Lois Parker Hennion has resigned as co-chair of the Peace and Justice Committee. Please thank Lois for her many years of work as co-chair. During the time Lois was co-chair, she and Anita Young (the other co-chair) coordinated the rededication of USR as a Peace Site and the Peace Pole planting. We will miss you in the position and are pleased you will be continuing on the committee. Anita Young is now chair of Peace and Justice.

Laura Lander has resigned as chair of Green Sanctuary and G.S. has disbanded. During the time she was chair, the group continued the UUA Green Sanctuary program. They conducted an energy and cleaning supplies audit. The transportation survey culminated in purchasing a bicycle rack. Thank you Laura for your careful guidance of the program. We will miss you.

Katherine Hyde has agreed to take the position of Environmental Justice Action Liaison. Katherine will keep us informed of the many actions and activities related to environmental justice. Please be sure to inform her when you attend a meeting or activity related to environmental action.

Finally, Marilyn Maney has agreed to be co-chair of the Education Justice Committee with Sally Lewis. Stay tuned for the events that they have planned for the year and as with all of our committees, be sure to check out the SRC table for updated information on all of our committees.

First Friends Volunteer Opportunities



Have some free time and want to make a difference in someone's life. If so, consider being trained to visit a detained immigrant or asylum seeker. USR has had a long standing relationship with First Friends of NJ and NY. First Friends is a Catholic organization that has reached out to interfaith groups working together to uphold the inherent dignity and humanity of detained immigrants and asylum seekers. We provide compassion and hope through volunteer visitation, resettlement assistance and advocacy. We oppose detention of asylum seekers and immigrant detainees who

pose no threat to society. We also work for improved conditions that respect the human dignity of all detainees. We experience the injustice of the broken immigration system and see the damage done to families and communities by enforcement only policy. Our work includes dialogue with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), those who manage detention facilities, legislators and fellow citizens; and we advocate for permanent changes in our public policy. **You can be a visitor to a detainee.** Visiting hours vary depending on day and institution. We visit at Bergen County Jail in Hackensack, Hudson County Detention Center in Kearny, and Elizabeth Detention Center in Elizabeth. Contact Anita Young for further information. Please click [here](#) to visit the First Friends of NJ and NY website for further information.

First Friends Phone Team Volunteer Opportunity

We are also looking for volunteers for our First Friends Phone Team. First Friends has toll free lines in each of the 4 detention facilities we visit. These lines are for detainees to request visitors. We provide posters for each dorm which explain our visiting program and tell how to access the line in their facility. Would you consider taking detainee phone requests weekdays between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.? We would forward a dedicated toll free line to your home or cell phone for a time period and weekday convenient for you. In turn, we ask you to relay detainee information to us by e-mail or phone. If you wish to volunteer, please call 908-965-0455 or Greg at 551-427-0598. Please click [here](#) for additional details.

First Friends Stamp Out Despair Program

Help bring more than 2,000 detainees hope with paper and an envelope! First Friends provides writing packages for detainees so they can stay in touch with their families. It is a great way for families, camps, small groups, scouts or anyone to help end the isolation of detention. Please click [here](#) to read the flyer.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Racial Justice Committee Sponsors Voter Registration

After the service on Sunday, **October 2**, the Racial Justice Committee, under the guidance of Peter Orsini who has been trained by Planned Parenthood, will conduct a voter registration drive at the SRC Action Table. The committee will be able to help people with registering for the first time or changing registration information to vote this November. We will have appropriate applications for New Jersey Voter Registration and for Vote by Mail Ballots and information on locating your correct polling place. On Monday, **October 3rd**, Peter will deliver the forms to the appropriate state office for processing. Registration is strictly a non-partisan event. Our hope is that this will encourage folks to get involved and vote their conscience in this critical election. The deadline for registering in NJ is **October 11th**.

Racial Justice Update – Advocacy letters

The Isolated Confinement Restriction Act, NJ S51/A547

Thanks to all who took the time to sign the letters to your assemblypersons and to the committee chairman advocating for Assembly Bill 547. The Racial Justice Committee is pleased to report that **57 people at USR signed three letters each for a total of 171 letters**.

As a reminder, State Senators Raymond Lesniak and Peter Barnes introduced a bill in the NJ Senate in 2014 to reform the use of solitary confinement (2016 Bill numbers are S51 and A547). The Senate version passed in June 2016. We will keep you posted., Let's make sure it is passed by the full Assembly quickly! **The Assembly version was voted out of the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee with Amendments, and Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on September 22.** Sponsors of A547 are Pinkin, Sumter, Huttler, Gusciora and Muoio. **You can go to www.raymondlesniak.com/endsolitaryconfinement/ to add your support to the passage of this bill.** There will be further information about the bill at the SRC table.

Solitary Cell

The life-size replica of a solitary cell that USR borrowed from the Montclair congregation coincided with the NJ Assembly's consideration of a bill, A.547, that limits the use of isolation in NJ's prisons. Several hundred people became aware of the issue and pending bill over the 18 days it was on the USR patio. Nearly 100 people (our members, their children, high school students from Bergen Tech and Ridgewood High School, people from nearby Episcopal and Baptist congregations, and neighbors actually entered the cell to experience the isolation. Leaders from the NJ Senate and Assembly spoke at a press conference at USR in mid-September about the bill, and we sent over 130 letters to northern Bergen members of the Assembly in favor of A.547.

Volunteers Needed

The Education Justice Committee invites you to **THINK ABOUT VOLUNTEERING** to help our young neighbors succeed in school. The children are ready, willing and able; all we need is YOU! The [attached flyer](#) lists four different opportunities that you can get involved with to make a difference in a young person's life, namely, PS 12 in Paterson, C.A.M.P., Reading Buddies (United Way) and Read To Know. USR members are currently involved in each program and can give you the skinny if you are interested. The flyer describes the need, the time frames and the contact information. Further questions? Contact Marilyn Maney or Sally Lewis.

Save the Date: Friday **November 4** to see "**Profiled**", a documentary that is a powerful indictment of racial profiling in New York City. The *filmmaker, Kathleen Foster, will be here for the discussion.* Her films have been screened at the Museum of Modern Art, the Asia Society ("Afghan Women, A History of Struggle" shown at USR several years ago), and numerous colleges and universities around the country.

THE UNITARIAN MOTH

RADIO STORY HOUR



Channeling the spirit of National Public Radio's "THE MOTH RADIO SHOW"

Yes, it is that time of year again: The Bergin, Collins and Patterson Families host a LIVE "Radio-Simulation" where ACTUAL HUMAN BEINGS step to the microphone to share Heartfelt, Hilarious, Thought-Provoking & Life-affirming tales. Not short-story reading but true-life revelations. Pathos! Excitement! Oh the Humanity! Kiss & Tell's are possible!

Guest story-tellers are UU regulars and Local Characters who have reflected deeply on life's peculiar events and mysteries: to share all with you in 6 minutes. Or less! Nine story-tellers HAVE BEEN SELECTED to open their hearts to you!

The fabulous 'Blue Plate Special' musicians join us again for a "Welcome reception" plus an intermission of Western Swing, Bluegrass and Old Time Songs.

\$ 20 reserves a seat in Anderson Friday October 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM

It's the UU Opportunity of the Century!! RSVP Michael Patterson

**** TRUE STORIES ** SIX MINUTES ** COOKIES AND REFRESHMENTS ****

**SOCIETY CAFE
CONCERT SERIES
2016 - 17 SEASON PRESENTS...**



VINNY PASTORE & GANGSTER SQUAD

CLASSIC ROCK

Salvatore
"Big Pussy"
Bonpensiero
from "The Sopranos"



*Saturday,
November
5th*

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



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The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood Proudly Presents...

“Fountain of Youthful Music”

USR member, Mitchell Milch and his music ensemble will perform songs from his debut CD: “Late Bloomer Boomer.”

This evening of songs and stories, that will exercise your range of emotional expression, is a fundraiser to support the social and political causes sponsored by The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood.

Please join Singer/Songwriter, Mitchell Milch, Music Director and CD Producer, Todd Urban, Percussionist, Mark Meding, and Guitarist/Vocalist, Chris Byers for an evening of musical entertainment.

Wine, coffee and dessert will be served.

Saturday, November 19th

Doors Open at 7:30 p.m.

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Anderson Auditorium

113 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ

Advance Registration: \$15.00

Concert Night: \$20.00

Please reserve your tickets by Wednesday, November 16th.

Please click [here](#) for online payment.

[Please click here for online payment for the Fountain of Youthful Music Fundraiser.](#)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Service</p> <p>11:15 Cottage Mtg/Conf Rm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:00 Board Mtg/Conf Rm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm</p> <p>7:30 Education Justice/Conf Rm</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Youth Rm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 Ministerial Search/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Youth Rm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 Sunday Service Comm/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00/Ministerial Search Comm/Fellowship</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10:00 Service</p> <p>11:45 Connections/Youth Rm Youth</p> <p>1:00 Mary Boutin Memorial/Anderson</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm</p> <p>7:00 CYRE/Youth Rm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p> <p>7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 Racial Justice/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:00 LIFFT Mtg/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:00 Moth Hour Fundraiser/Anderson</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Service</p> <p>11:15 Membership/Conf. Rm</p> <p>11:30 P&J Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p> <p>3:00 Children's Aide Fundraiser/Anderson</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Youth Rm</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Upstairs Mtg Rm.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Youth Rm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop/Fellowship</p> <p>6:00/6:30 Congregational Dinners Off-site</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10:00 Service</p> <p>11:15 Ministerial Search/Upstairs Mtg. Rm</p> <p>11:30 Newcomer's Brunch/Conf Rm</p> <p>11:45 Connections/Youth Rm</p> <p>2:00 Art Reception/Anderson</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30 Staff Mtg/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p> <p>7:30 Writing Group/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:00 LIFFT/Fellowship Rm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00/Ministerial Search Comm/Fellowship</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10:00 Service</p>	<p>31</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm</p>					

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