



**From the
Minister's Mailbox**

Dear Friends,

Although the weather continues to feel like summer, surely this month we will see a turn and we'll have the chance to bring out sweaters and long pants. And we'll watch the leaves turn bringing a more subtle beauty to the world.

We've now been together for about a month and a half. Fall will bring the time to lean into our relationships further. To spend more time in conversation, to spend more time learning to trust and risk together, to spend more time singing and reading and listening and working and loving together. I hope you have felt good about the start of our partnership, and that you are feeling safe and solid in your congregational community.

There have been a couple of changes — the introduction of anyone new into a system will bring adjustments. And there are a couple of things I want to highlight.

The eblast now features a piece from me, Rob, your Board president, or Dylan, our Director of Family Ministries. It has lots of links to details about what's going on. Please read it carefully.

The Choir will now be practicing nearly every Thursday. We are committed to creating a robust Choir with anyone who wants to join in lifting their voices in song.

And as we mentioned last week, the children and youth will be starting in Anderson most Sundays. Look for a sign out front to let you know. Also, please encourage your children to come even if in the past they've not enjoyed the Time for All Ages. Even elements of Sunday worship deserve a second chance.

We will always communicate changes along the way. Thank you for your commitment to USR, your embrace of me and Dylan, and your patience as we find our footing.

Blessings in this season of change,
Rev. Sarah



Reflections

The beginning of the new year of Religious Education has come on fast, furious, and with a whole lot of heart.

Our first few weeks of Sunday School education has seen our five classes begin their process of forming intentional community in covenant with one another. In each class they have played games, caught each other up on their Summer vacations, and have begun to lay the groundwork for a wonderful year of fellowship with one another.

Our Fall Semester teachers have picked up right where we left off in the Spring without missing a beat and have been an absolute pleasure to work with.

We have welcomed children to the first ten minutes of the Sunday service on a regular basis and will be continuing this pattern going forward.

Childcare is now officially open from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every Sunday.

Thank you to each of the children, families, and congregants for a warm welcome into this community and I am so looking forward to our shared ministry together!

May it be so,
Dylan Doyle-Burke

Hello to our parents and youth!

As I begin my third year on staff as your Youth Programs Coordinator I'm quite pleased with the start that we've had with the youth group! It's been great working with Paramus's new DRE Lynn Sodora as well as the new Director of Family Ministries at Ridgewood Dylan Doyle-Burke, as well as getting to reconnect with youth and parents after a summer away.

We had a great parent meeting and adult advisor training to start the month and also held a fantastic overnight event in mid-September at Ridgewood. Thanks to all the parents and youth who were able to make that a fun night of games, bonding, and community building. The first youth group meetings of the year have taken place and the youth are hard at work developing their own unique covenant. The major pieces of this year's youth program are in place and I'm excited every Sunday to see our youth and advisors and be a part of our youth group.

Thanks to our adult advisor volunteers for this year! I'm excited to be working alongside Phread Ayres and Kristin Plumley from USR, John Freund from CUC, and Jane Cowan from the UU Congregation of Rockland. We're all grateful to have such dedicated adults as part of our youth community.

We've got lots of fun activities coming up in the Fall beginning with the first Friday Game Night of the year on October 6 at CUC. All youth grades 9-12 are welcome to join us from 6-10 p.m. for an evening of board games and fellowship activities. 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'm available by email on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Otherwise I'm always available to meet by appointment.

See you all this month!
James

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| October 1st | <p>“Forgiveness” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi
 This will be a Time for All Ages service.
 Musician: Paul Vanderwalp, cello and Ron Levy, piano</p> |
| October 8th | <p>“History and Truth: Indigenous People’s Day” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi
 Musicians: Ron Levy, piano</p> |
| October 15th | <p>“Braving Vulnerability” - Dylan Doyle-Burke
 Musician: Ron Levy, piano</p> |
| October 22nd | <p>“UU UNO: Disarmament” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi
 Musicians: Ian Castro, tenor and Ron Levy, piano</p> |
| October 29th | <p>“95 Theses/All Souls Day” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi
 Musician: Ron Levy, piano</p> |



OCTOBER AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY

UPCOMING EXHIBITION:

Paintings by **David Buckbinder**

October 13th - October 22th, 2017

Opening Reception

Friday, October 20th from 7 to 9 pm

LATER THIS MONTH, THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY PRESENTS A VERY SPECIAL EXHIBITION:

Mother, Me Reception: Wednesday evening, November 1st, 2017

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

Brown bag luncheon on October 4th to be hosted by Karen Ramsahai at 1 p.m. at her home. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please RSVP to let her know you are coming and to let her give you directions if needed. All are welcome.

Newcomer's Brunch

Please join us on Sunday, **October 22nd**, 11:30 a.m. for the Newcomer's Brunch. This is a fun, social and informative opportunity to meet key personnel of The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood and members of the congregation. This is your opportunity to find out how to become involved and learn about membership. Brunch will be provided. Child care available with 2 weeks advance notice.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

UUA/UUSC Hurricane and Relief Fund News

Thank you to all of the congregants who donated to the emergency plate collection for those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. Our plate collection on Sunday 9/10, collected a record \$2,836.00 for the UUA/UUSC relief fund!

The Board of the New Jersey Abortion Access Fund (NJAAF) thanks you for the generosity on Saturday, September 24. \$1,017 was donated to the plate collection for women in NJ to have safe and legal abortions.

October 15th Plate Collection for BVMI

The Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative continues to meet a pressing need in Bergen County by providing free health care to hard working adults who are ineligible for Medicaid and cannot afford to buy health insurance. BVMI relies on volunteer physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians, and other staff and serves as a "medical home" with an emphasis on prevention and healthy lifestyles. The erosion of the provisions in the Affordable Care Act has placed additional burdens on BVMI which has seen an increase in patients needing access to care. BVMI is supported entirely by private donations and corporate support. USR member Mike Azzara is one of the founders, past Board Chair and current trustee. The Social Responsibilities plate collection on October 15th will be for BVMI. Thank you for USR support.

REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE

Upcoming Film — "Equal Means Equal"

Please join the Reproductive Justice Committee, Northern NJ NOW and other co-sponsors for a viewing of the documentary, "Equal Means Equal". Please also look for the film flyer and information about the well known speaker, Roberta Francis, in this newsletter. We are also fortunate to share the Cottage Place space with "Mother, Me," a storytelling, photography exhibit by teen Moms of Zoe's Place, a program of Children's Aid and Family Services. More about the exhibit in the Cottage Place Gallery section of this newsletter. The Reproductive Justice Committee invites you to join them for their next meeting on Sunday, **October 15** at 1:30 a.m. Co-chairs: Susanne Fuhrman and Carol Loscalzo.



Here's a great and valuable article in the latest UU World by Mark Morrison-Reed, a noted long-time black UU minister and author. "The Black Hole in the White UU Psyche" asks the question "What is the consequence of not knowing Unitarian Universalist black history" His answer is partly "We have embraced a false narrative about who we are."

It is powerful and important. Click [here](#) to read the article.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Family Promise

Our two days at Family Promise over Labor Day weekend was one of the most enjoyable that I can remember. There was only one family, with a husband, wife, their young daughter and a baby. However, they were really engaged with us and spent a lot of time talking and playing with us, and with their children. When I left, the husband thanked me and said that we were the only volunteers who really interacted with them. I felt proud of us, but also reflected on how lonely this situation can be. We couldn't be in Houston or other places that are in the news, but we could be here, where people still need our help.

So, thanks very much to our volunteers. Dave Myers and Karen Ramsahai and their children Libby, Lexi, and Levi; Christian Reinhardt and Marijan Por and their daughter Zora; Lainie Hirsch (my coworker) and her 2 boys; Mary Mogerly; Brietta Savoie; Mike Bein; Carolyn Musser; Bob Shoemaker and Steve Jackson. Thanks to the young people who played and cooked and set a great example. Thanks to everyone who took time to interact and provide fellowship.

We'll be doing it again in March!

News from the Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition

The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition was able to take on a new (our fifth active) client this past summer, thanks to the wonderful generosity of Bob Shoemaker, who agreed to host an asylum applicant. CK, a 39-year old from Uganda, moved in with Bob in early August and has already started working at Kilroy's in Glen Rock. The next time you see Bob, please thank him for the very important contribution he is making to "welcoming a stranger" into our community, and if you see a strange visitor along side him some Sunday or at one of our functions, please welcome Chause to the U.S.

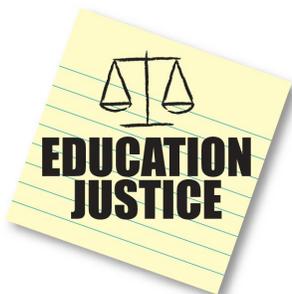
From the Education Justice Committee

Become a Reading Buddy!

The United Way of Passaic County is actively working to improve educational outcomes for students in Paterson. Through the Reading Buddies program, 1st – 3rd grade students struggling with reading are provided with individual and small group tutoring.

This year the Reading Buddies program will be expanding and is looking to recruit more outstanding volunteers! The goal of our program is to help improve student's literacy skills and help them develop a love for reading. The program runs October to June. Tutoring opportunities are available during school hours and the schedule is flexible. All volunteers will be subject to a background check and fingerprinting, and are required to attend an orientation and training before the start of the program. Please contact Paula Smalling at paulas@unitedwaypassaic.org for more details. *Help make a difference in a child's life.*

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Climate Change and Environmental Justice Fall Symposium

Join us on Friday, October 27, 2017 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. Click [here](#) for details and to register.

There are no more excuses.



**EQUAL
MEANS
EQUAL**

FILM AND DISCUSSION WITH ROBERTA FRANCIS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017
6:30 PM (DOOR OPEN) - 7:00 PM (FILM BEGINS)

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD

113 COTTAGE PLACE • RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450

For directions and parking instructions, please
visit <http://www.uuridgewood.org>

SUGGESTED \$10 DONATION AT THE DOOR

*Light Refreshments will be served. Child care available with 2 weeks notice.
Please email Ann Pareti at usr.membership1@gmail.com.*

ABOUT THE FILM

EQUAL MEANS EQUAL offers an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. Examining both real-life stories and precedent-setting legal cases, director Kamala Lopez uncovers how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the healthcare conglomerate to the judicial system. Along the way, she reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.



ABOUT ROBERTA FRANCIS

Roberta Francis, currently ERA Education Consultant for the Alice Paul Institute, was Founding Chair of the ERA Task Force of the National Council of Women's Organizations from 1999-2015. A former Director of the New Jersey Division on Women, she has worked for 40 years on a broad spectrum of issues for women's advancement, from education and pay equity to reproductive rights and violence against women.

CO-SPONSORS



National Organization for Women
Northern New Jersey Chapter

REPRODUCTIVE
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THE UNITARIAN
SOCIETY OF
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eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Bergen County

LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
of Northern Valley

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD
ULBCOAP
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NCJS
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUDICIAL STUDIES
Bergen County Section

"The struggle to pass the ERA in the U.S. is experiencing a phenomenal resurgence now, reflected in this film."

- Paula J. Caplan, Ph.D., Psychology Today

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Service-Forgiveness; Rev. Sarah</p> <p>11:15 Congregational Photo/Outside</p> <p>11:15 Camp YDP Mtg/RE Room</p> <p>11:30 Sunday Service Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:00 BOT Mtg/Conf. Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Youth Rm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café/Ridgewood</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 Friday Night Out/Babysitting in RE</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 Palisades Virtuoso Concert/Anderson</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Service - History & Truth: Indigenous People's Day; Rev. Sarah</p> <p>11:45 Environmental Justice Mtg/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:30 P&J Meeting/Conf. Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café/Ridgewood</p> <p>1:00 Brown Bag Luncheon with Rev. Sarah/Fellowship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir Practice/Anderson</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 LIFFT Meeting/Fellowship</p> <p>7:00 Moth Hour Fundraiser/Anderson</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Congregational Dinners/Offsite</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Service - Braving Vulnerability; Dylan Doyle-Burke</p> <p>11:30 P&J Mtg/Conf. Rm</p> <p>11:30 R&J Mtg/Upstairs Mtg. Rm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 Connections/Youth Rm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café/Ridgewood</p> <p>7:00 SRC Meeting/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir Practice/Fellowship</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 Art Reception/Anderson</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 Service - UU UNO: Disarmament; Rev. Sarah</p> <p>11:30 Newcomer's Brunch/Conf. Rm</p> <p>11:30 Social Media Class/Anderson</p> <p>11:30 Reproductive Justice Mtg/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>2:00 70+ Tea with Rev. Sarah/Anderson</p> <p>7:00 Racial Justice Mtg/Conf. Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café/Ridgewood</p> <p>6:30 Faith Talks at the Steel Wheel/Ridgewood</p> <p>7:00 One Book USR/Conf. Rm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00 LIFFT Mtg/Fellowship</p> <p>7:00 Reproductive Justice Film/Anderson</p> <p>7:00 Adult Choir/Fellowship</p> <p>7:30 Nominating Comm./Upstairs Mtg. Rm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 USR Potluck</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Service 95 Theses/ All Soul's Day - Rev. Sarah</p> <p>11:30 Greeter Training/Anderson</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm</p> <p>7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship</p>	<p>31</p>				

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Board of Trustees

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Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Mission Statement

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

Invitation to Participate

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

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

Anti-Racist Congregation

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

Living the Welcoming

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

Safe Congregation

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

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the
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD

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NOW accepting articles for October 24th deadline
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