



the
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD



**From the
Minister's Mailbox**

Dear Friends,

With all that has been going on in the world, I hope you have been able to take some time to be with friends and family as the summer begins to end and we move closer to new beginnings — children back at school, the start of the new church year and new relationships, the coming of cooler weather and the fall.

My family and I are spending this last bit of August on Cape Cod, where I spent time as a child each summer. I'm taking my children to the same go-carts, the same mini-golf courses, the same restaurants and beaches, the same town transfer center to recycle and donate. But of course we are also doing a lot differently, like trying new playgrounds, and shopping at new grocery stores. There is something strange and wonderful about long-time continuity, and there's good reason not to mess with things that are working, when they are truly working. But there's also something wonderful about trying new things and changing up our routine.

This fall, and probably well into winter, it will be part of my job to watch, ask questions, and learn. Learn about you, about this congregation, about "how things are done" and to begin to figure out, with you and your leadership, what has been working, and what hasn't. Where are the places a shake up would be welcome and feel exciting, what areas of congregational life feel sacred? And then, with that information, work alongside you to decide if and when change should come to aspects that long for it and aspects that don't. We won't move fast, except where necessary, and we won't make change without forethought, conversation, and awareness wherever possible.

The one place you can expect to see change is in the Sunday morning experience, what many of us call worship. There, ministers are granted what is called, "freedom of the pulpit". This means that from our pulpits, and really throughout the Sunday morning service, we are empowered to say and do what we believe needs to be said and done. This doesn't mean that we say or do absolutely anything: we are trusted to speak and behave in accordance with the needs we perceive in our community and to speak and behave in ways that our communities will understand us and in ways that will move our people.

So, starting with the very first service, you will see some changes. In the order of service, in some of the elements. But please know that you won't suddenly have no sermon, or have communion, or be expected to recite a rote prayer each Sunday. We will be experimenting, and looking for feedback, all while reminding ourselves that what works for some may not work for others, and that is a part of the beauty and challenge of a Unitarian Universalist Congregation. We are going to laugh, and sing, and think, and enjoy our Sunday mornings as best we can, using them as a time to practice all the best of our UU values of openness, welcoming, head, heart, curiosity and kindness. On Sunday it may feel like change comes quickly, but promise it will be thoughtful change, not change for change's sake.

It's wonderful to have some things that never change. But it's also good to try new things now and again, to see if change can make us even more deeply connected. To build new memories. Create new ways.

We are starting a journey together this September, one that requires patience and trust. We will have to simultaneously take our time building that trust and taking an immediate leap in some areas. I know we can do it, as long as we are open and honest and compassionate with one another from the start.

May the end of your summer bring something old and familiar, and something new and different. I will see you all soon for our Ingathering Service on September 10. If you are so inclined, bring some water to share for our Water Ceremony.

I can't wait to be with you!

Best,

Rev. Sarah



Dear friends,

Sometimes new beginnings come into our lives like a trickle of rain or a small stream. Sometimes, they flow into our lives one change at a time in a way that we have time to process them, sort them, make sense of them and make peace with them. Yes, sometimes new beginnings are like this. But most times new beginnings come into our lives much more like a torrent or a waterfall. Most times, important changes in our lives and the lives of our community come in waves.

Reflections

My name is Dylan Debelis and I am so excited to have been called to be your next Director of Family Ministries. I am excited to be joining Reverend Sarah Lenzi as part of this wave of new beginnings here at USR. I am excited to take on the legacy of the

fabulous Religious Educators that have come before me and to continue to have a Religious Education program that is strong, forward-thinking, and nurturing to all of our children and youth.

We will soon begin a wonderful year of fellowship, programming, and doing together the work of justice and love. I cannot wait to get to know you and your families and to see what ministries we will construct together.

Please join us on opening Sunday, September 10th where following the service I will be mingling and meeting families. Please also keep your eyes peeled for more information about Sunday School which will begin Sunday September 17th!

Warmth and blessings at the beginning of this new church year,
Dylan D. Debelis



Welcome back from summer! I hope everyone had a restful, relaxing time over the last few months and is looking forward to the coming church year.

Our combined Paramus/Ridgewood youth program is getting geared up this month — all 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us! The time for our weekly youth group meetings will be the same, from to 12:30pm-2:30pm, and we'll still be alternating church locations every other month, beginning with September at USR and then in October and November back at CUC. We've got youth cons coming up, social justice activities, a new youth adult committee, our youth-led worship service, and you may even see a newsletter column written by one of our youth in the coming months. There are lots of exciting things on the horizon!

There are a few of our youth group members that I want to acknowledge for their summer UU activities. One of last year's bridging seniors, Hannah Rigdon, did another magnificent job as the Senior Business Manager at this year's General Assembly Youth Caucus. Closer to home we had two of our teens attend the Central East Region's Goldmine Leadership School at Murray Grove, Tyler Richardson and Delphine Aibel, where they became experts in leadership, UU worship, and UU history. Faith Keenan also served on staff at Goldmine in Fairfax, VA this July. Thanks for the congregation's support in getting them there!

Now that the year has begun I'll be available by email on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and I'm always available to meet by appointment.

See you all this month!
James



As we start the new congregational year we have both a lot for which to be thankful and much to do. We are fortunate to have found our new minister, the Reverend Sarah Lenzi, who I am confident is a great fit for this congregation and is the right person to help lead us into our next chapter. This fall we also are welcoming our new Director of Family Ministry, Dylan Debelis. Last summer the RE Director Search Committee recommended the selection of Dylan after evaluating several applications and interviewing two other excellent candidates. Dylan is a Unitarian Universalist Minister, Religious Educator, Chaplain, Poet, and Performer. He graduated with his Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in May 2015. Dylan most recently served as a chaplain resident at New York Presbyterian Hospital and as the Director of Religious Education at Central Unitarian Church in Paramus, NJ. Please join me in welcoming Dylan to the USR.

While we have finally a strong and dedicated staff in place, we now need the support and participation of all of the members of the congregation in order to truly make the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood a great example of a vibrant shared ministry. I encourage you to please think about how you can contribute your time and talent to help make things really take off this year. We have a number of key leadership positions that need to be filled including the Building and Grounds Chairperson, a Co-Chair of the Annual Budget Drive and the Caring Committee Chairperson. If you aren't interested in one of those important positions, there are many other opportunities to get involved, including small roles that don't require a significant time commitment. I encourage you to get involved in the work of the congregation because we need your help in making the USR operate smoothly and because you will find the work rewarding. After nearly 20 years of being a member, I have learned that great relationships at the USR are not built at coffee hour but rather while working together on something that you enjoy. Please contact me or any other member of the Board of Trustees if you would like to learn more about how to get involved and what other opportunities are available.

In addition to volunteering to work on behalf of the congregation this year, I encourage you to participate in all of the activities that we have to offer. Please show up on Sunday morning, attend the excellent programs sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Council, go to an art show opening or a concert. As more people actively participate our sense of community will strengthen.

Thank you for your continued support and participation.

Rob

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown-Bag Luncheon



Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **September 6, 2017** to be hosted by Mary Mogerley 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. All are welcome.

One Book USR

The book group will be meeting on **September 27** at 7:30 in Reeb to discuss "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. He won the Pulitzer prize for this story of two slaves escaping the horrors of plantation life on a mysterious underground train ride. We will compare this book with Uncle Tom's Cabin. All are welcome!

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

- September 3rd **“On Work and Rest: Keeping a Sabbath in Difficult Times” - Jessica Halperin**
 Musician: Ron Levy, piano
- September 10th **“Ingathering Sunday” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi**
 (Multigenerational) and water ceremony. Don't forget to bring some water for the Water Ceremony!
 Musicians: Orpehus Mens' Chorus with John Palatucci, Director and Conductor
- September 17th **“The Unitarian Spirit” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi**
 Musician: Ron Levy, piano
- September 24th **“Board and Minister Start-Up” - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi**
 Musicians: Tribute to Barbara Cook and Glen Campbell; Ron Levy, piano; Kristen Plumley, Rick Sawyer and Dave Spungen, singers



Hey, did you know you can follow the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram? And, we now we have our own Meetup page as well! Click on links below and please “like” our posts and feel free to comment on the wonderful happenings here at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood!

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/UURidgewood>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/uuridgewood/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/uuridgewood/>

Meetup:

<https://www.meetup.com/The-Unitarian-Society-of-Ridgewood/>

And of course, you can always find news about upcoming Sunday services, events and social action news on our website:

<http://www.uuridgewood.org/>



MINISTRY COUNCIL

THIS MONTH AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY

Persistence: Work by Bill Logan

September 10 -
October 8, 2017



Artist's Reception Sunday, September 16th from 2-5PM

The public is welcome!



Follow the gallery
on Facebook
[@cottageplacegallery](https://www.facebook.com/cottageplacegallery)

DID YOU KNOW that the gallery is an important fundraiser for the **USR**? 25% of all artwork sales goes directly to the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. Please support local artists — and the USR — by considering a purchase of artwork from Cottage Place Gallery exhibitions!

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

The Racial Justice Committee invites you to join them on Wednesday, **September 6** at 7:00 p.m. in Reeb Conference Room. The committee will be planning programs for the 2017-18 year, concentrating on continuing the work of all of us gaining a deeper understanding of white privilege and our white supremacy culture. We are an active committee, meeting monthly and welcoming new members.

The first event of the year is the Academy Award Nominated film, "I Am Not Your Negro", built on the words of James Baldwin, the much honored Black author of the mid to late 20th century on **September 22**. See flyer on Page 8. For further information contact co-chairs, Carolyn Musser or Carol Loscalzo.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

SRC Action Table

On the Sunday after the Charlottesville Neo-Nazi and white supremacist demonstrations, counter demonstrations, the killing of a young woman anti-demonstrator and the president's statements, 36 congregants signed the letter at the Action table that was sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Council. The letter, which expressed the concern and dismay at the lack of presidential moral leadership in the aftermath of these events, was sent to President Trump with copies sent to Congressman Paul Ryan, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Senator Mitch McConnell, Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Cory Booker and Senator Bob Menendez. Thank you to all who support the work of the SRC and its committees by signing letters at the Action Table!

Plate Collection Report (2016-2017)

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. In 2014, the Board asked the SRC to increase the number of collections to up to 15 per year, allowing for emergency requests. During the 2016-2017 congregational year there were 13 plate collections. The congregation responded generously for a total of \$14,962. **A big and sincere thank you to all who have contributed!!**

If you would like to request consideration for a group you feel would fit the mission of USR, please complete a plate collection request form (on the website or at SRC table) and submit to the SRC at any time. Questions: Email Carol Loscalzo.

Plate Collection Announcement for September 2017

Each month The Social Responsibilities Council sponsors one plate collection per month dedicated to a social justice cause. The collection for September will be for the New Jersey Abortion Access Fund. The New Jersey Abortion Access Fund is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization that provides financial assistance to those seeking safe, legal abortions. NJAAF provides grants to help cover the cost of an abortion or related services. This fund was initiated by the USR Reproductive Justice Committee with the assistance of 2 grants from the USR Endowment Fund. Currently Carol Loscalzo, is President of NJAAF.

The New Jersey Abortion Access Fund envisions a world where equal access to abortion is guaranteed for all women, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender expression, ethnicity, age, class, immigration status and ability. The hostile climate surrounding reproductive rights, especially in recent months, has created even greater obstacles for women as they make intimate decisions about their reproductive rights. USR has responded very generously in the past. NJAAF is very grateful for your past donations, and we thank you for your continued support.

Look for the announcement of a specific date for the collection.



Click [here](#) to read the UUSC, Toward's Justice e-newsletter. This is the latest news on the UUSC's work in economic justice, environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Last Call for Volunteers Sunday/Monday of Labor Day Weekend

Can you cook? Stay over night? Amuse children? Be amused by children? We need you! Cooks come at 5:00 p.m., stay until maybe 8:30 p.m. when things are cleaned up. Overnight people can come anytime before 9:00 p.m. or so, and are welcome to help out earlier.

Family Promise is a private non-profit that cares for working homeless families right here in Bergen County, until they get back on their feet, check out the website at www.bergenfamilypromise.org.

We must provide dinner Sunday and Monday night of Labor Day weekend and also overnight hosts for both of those nights. If you're back because school is about to start, especially Monday night, that would be great.

Email or call Betsy Longendorfer if you would like to help.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Reproductive Justice Committee – All Welcome

The Reproductive Justice Committee has scheduled its first meeting of the 2017-18 year on Sunday **September 17** at 11:30 a.m. after the service in the Reeb conference room. We invite anybody with an interest in "Repro Justice" to join us. Due to the current national climate, this year we will continue to focus on preventing the further erosion of reproductive rights, including ensuring access to safe abortion care (maintaining the physical and emotional safety of women, their partners and clinic staff inside and outside the facilities), the increasing maternal death rates in the United States (in particular the astonishingly high rate of maternal deaths in communities of color), and issues related to the rights and dignity of incarcerated women in NJ.

The first event of the year will be on Thursday, **October 26** and is co-sponsored with several organizations including Northern NJ NOW. We will be showing "EQUAL MEANS EQUAL", an unflinching look at how women are treated in the U.S. today. Click [here](#) to view flyer.

For further information contact Susanne Fuhrman or Carol Loscalzo.

SAVE THE DATE FOR AN IMPORTANT FILM PRESENTATION

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO



WRITTEN BY
JAMES BALDWIN
DIRECTED BY
RAOUL PECK
STARRING
SAMUEL L. JACKSON

Friday, September 22, 2017

7:00pm (film begins at 7:15pm)

MODERATORS:



Mary Joyce Laqui and Delores
Connors of Write to Matter.
Follow them on Facebook:
[@writes2matter](#)

ABOUT THE FILM: Master filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, *Remember This House*. The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, using Baldwin's original words and flood of rich archival material. *I Am Not Your Negro* is a journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter. It is a film that questions black representation in Hollywood and beyond. And, ultimately, by confronting the deeper connections between the lives and assassination of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., Baldwin and Peck have produced a work that challenges the very definition of what America stands for.

LOCATION:

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood –
Fellowship Room
113 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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

FILM SERIES 2017-18 SPONSORS:



**Central Unitarian
Social Action Team**

**SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES
COUNCIL of the
UNITARIAN SOCIETY
of RIDGEWOOD**

“Come for the film, Stay for the Discussion!”

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



SINGER - SONGWRITER FESTIVAL



FEATURING
ROB CANNILLO
REBECCA RYDELL
& DENNIS BRENDALL
KATE LANDINO
VERNON WEBB



Saturday, September 23rd

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**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm	2
3 10:00 Service	4 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 4:00 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	5	6 7:00 Racial Jus- tice Mtg./Conf. Rm	7	8	9
10 10:00 Service “Ingathering Sunday with Rev. Sarah” Multi- generational	11 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 2:00 70+ Tea with the Minister/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 BOT Meeting/ Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	12 6:00 SRC Meet- ing/Conf. Rm	13 1:00 Brown-Bag Lunch with the Minister 7:00 SRC Meet- ing/Conf. Rm	14 7:30Adult Choir/ Fellowship	15 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm	16 2:00 Art Reception/ Anderson
17 10:00 Service “Board and Minister Start-up” 11:30 Reproductive Jus- tice Mtg/Conf. Rm	18 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Safe Congre- gation Mtg/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	19	20	21 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	22 7:00 Racial Justice Film/ Anderson, see pg. 8	23 9:00 Board of Trus- tees/Fellowship
24 10:00 Service “The Uni- versalist Spirit” 11:15 Membership Mtg/ Conf. Rm 11:30 USR Potluck/ Anderson	25 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	26	27 7:00 One Book USR/Conf. Rm	28 7:30Adult Choir/ Fellowship	29	30

Editor/Membership Administrator: Ann Pareti 201-444-6225
usr.membership1@gmail.com

The Rev. Sarah Lenzi, Minister 201-444-6225
usr.minister@gmail.com

Dylan Debelis, Director of Family Ministry 201-444-6225
usr.dre1@gmail.com

James Forrest, Youth Group Adv. 480-754-9039
cucusryouthgroup@gmail.com

Indiadora Nicholson, RE Assistant 201-444-6225
usr.reassistant@gmail.com

Ron Levy, Music Director 201-444-6225
levynotes@aol.com

Donna Barrett, Finance Manager 201-444-6225
usr.finance1@gmail.com

Chandrika Chowdhry, Secretary 201-444-6225
usr.secretary@gmail.com

Society Office Hours: 9:00—3:00, Monday-Friday
Fax 201-444-9838
Website www.uuridgewood.org

Board of Trustees

Rob Willis, President	Holly Nolan, Trustee
Sally Lewis, Vice President	Laura Krag, Trustee
Peter Duran, Treasurer	Sean Brennan, Trustee
Bernie Josefsberg, Secretary	Julie McMurray, Trustee
	Jackie Nadler, Trustee

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1	Minister's Mailbox
Page 2	Reflections
Page 3	Letter from Rob Willis MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL First Wednesday Brown-Bag One Book USR
Page 4-5	MINISTRY COUNCIL Upcoming Services Social Media Cottage Place Gallery
Page 5-8	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES Racial Justice Plate Collection Family Promise
Page 9	Society Café Concert Series
Page 10	CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Page 11	STAFF/BOARD LISTING INDEX



the
**UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD**

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



**Sexually Safer
Best Practice
Congregation**

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