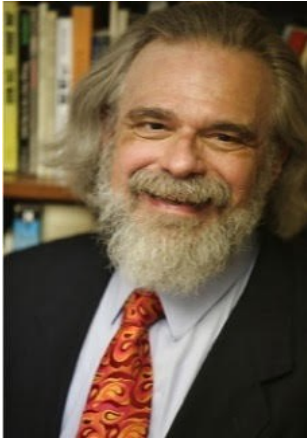
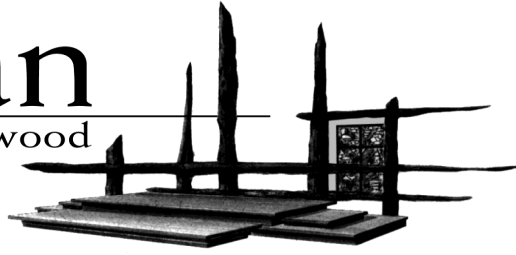


Unitarian

Society of Ridgewood



From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

I am reminded of a song that was popular during my childhood: (*There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays*, written by composer Robert Allen (1927 – 2000) and lyricist Al Stillman (1906 – 1979). The first of many recorded versions, sung by Perry Como, was released on November 16, 1954.

The song takes on special meaning for me because of my two-year sojourn as interim minister with the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, Florida. In 2013 and 2014, I spent Christmas in Florida. For the first time in my life, I spent Christmas in some place that I did not call home.

The prospect of Christmas with the possibility of snow lifts my heart. I have gleefully scraped frost off my car windshield three times this autumn. But more important than the weather is that, once the Christmas Eve service is over and we've wished each other a joyous holiday, I will go home. It's not just the snow and ice. During my three years in Los Angeles, to which I had moved from Boston, I was at home. My time in Florida, however, I defined as a long commute. Orange, New Jersey had long been home and it continued to be home.

My musing is not purely personal. Two of the several holidays that we celebrate around the time of the winter solstice are holidays that are about not being at home. Hanukkah is about the struggle of the most observant Jews of their time reclaiming the Temple in Jerusalem from the imperial rulers and themselves returning to their spiritual home after a long absence. Christmas is about a young family journeying to the father's ancestral home and having no place to stay when the first child of the family is born in the town of his ancestors.

As I write, I am one of many witnesses to a debate about admitting Syrian refugees fleeing the violence in their homeland to another nation where they hope to find a safe, peaceful and new home. That debate is happening in Europe and the United States. The resistance to granting refuge is making even darker the season of darkness leading to these two holidays that are about home and the brightening of that darkness – one by the lamp in the Temple and the other by star over the manger. We use the candles in the menorah and the lights in windows and on Christmas trees as reminders of the brightening.

The ancient stories behind Hanukkah and Christmas remind me of a poem by Theodore Roethke (1908 – 1963). It begins

In a dark time, the eye begins to see,
I meet my shadow in the deepening shade.

Seemingly, the speaker searches in solitude for light in the increasingly pervasive darkness. But finally,

A fallen man, I climb out of my fear.
The mind enters itself, and God the mind,
And one is One, free in the tearing wind.

One way or another, the lengthening darkness of the season invites us to see – whether by the light of the menorah's candles, the Christmas candles, or the mind's own eye.

However dark the time, may you begin to see.

However far you may be from where you started, may you be at home.

The Rev Dr TJ



Reflections

It seems like there has been a lot of turbulence in the world lately. I hear about acts of violence and hate almost daily. It can be paralyzing for me, to the point that I don't even want to look at the newspaper, or my Facebook feed, lest I be reminded of how little I'm doing to help. What can I, one person, do? There are so many problems, so many people and situations that need our help and attention.

A few days ago I was wallowing in this feeling of helplessness when one of my DRE colleagues shared a cartoon that snapped me out of it. The gist of it was that raising our kids to be loving, welcoming, accepting, and thoughtful is one of the most important things we can do to change the world. If we can raise our children to be dedicated Unitarian Universalists, to live out our Unitarian Universalist ideals of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, to work for our goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, we will have changed the world.

To raise dedicated Unitarian Universalists, or to BE dedicated Unitarian Universalists, we can't just go to church on Sundays then forget about it the rest of the week. We have to live our faith, every single day. Another of my DRE colleagues (they are an amazing bunch!) shared this Acts of Kindness Calendar, <http://usrre.weebly.com/announcements>, that helps us, and our children, do just that. It offers a simple way to live out Unitarian Universalist values for each day of December. It is geared towards kids, but the acts can easily be adapted by adults, too. I have printed copies of this calendar - if you'd like one, just ask. I encourage you to spend five minutes each evening talking with your family about how you completed your act for the day, and then cross that day off.

Some of these Acts of Kindness include making donations to Guest at Your Table. That money goes to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). If you want a more concrete way to help heal the world, but don't have time to join one of the committees doing important social justice work here at USR, you can visit the UUSC website for ideas. Click on <http://www.uusc.org/action-center> to visit the website. They offer a list of simple, time-limited actions you can take to help Syrian Refugees, farm workers in Florida, the ecological health of our world, and more.

Finally, as we enter this busy holiday season, I urge you to seek peace and joy in your own life. Once you find it, it will spread like wildfire. I leave you with this poem, that always brings me closer to peace and joy. I hope it speaks to some of you, too.

In faith,
Johanna

Wage peace with your breath.
Breathe in firemen and rubble,
breathe out whole buildings and flocks of red wing blackbirds.
Breathe in terrorists
and breathe out sleeping children and freshly mown fields.
Breathe in confusion and breathe out maple trees.
Breathe in the fallen and breathe out lifelong friendships intact.
Wage peace with your listening: hearing sirens, pray loud.
Remember your tools: flower seeds, clothes pins, clean rivers.
Make soup.
Play music, memorize the words for thank you in three languages.
Learn to knit, and make a hat.
Think of chaos as dancing raspberries,
imagine grief as the outbreath of beauty or the gesture of fish.
Swim for the other side.
Wage peace.
Never has the world seemed so fresh and precious:
Have a cup of tea and rejoice.
Act as if armistice has already arrived.
Celebrate today.
Wage Peace - Judyth Hill - September 12, 2001

FROM THE BOARD



Hello, all!

The season of thanksgiving is upon us and I want to thank you, once again, for being a part of our beloved community. As I pause to consider what I am most grateful for, I think of our community and our mission, and for the good work we are doing in the world.

So far this congregational year, our monthly Plate Collections have raised more than \$5200 for social justice causes, specifically, Center for Food Action, SHARE, the UUSC/UUA Syrian Refugee Emergency Fund, Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, and First Friends of NJ/NY. We had an incredibly successful Fiber Arts Festival, which raised more than \$7500 for our congregation; our Chamber Music concert, Society Café, Moth Radio Hour, and Life Lessons in Song yielded almost \$4000 more. And at the time of this writing, we stand poised to raise significant funds for the C.A.M.P. Youth Development Program and our Paterson friends through our Fall Craft Fair.

Along with our sister congregations, Central Unitarian Church and the UU Congregation of the Palisades, we also participated in the Outreach Auction of Bergen County, which raised more than \$45,000 for Center for Food Action, the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Family Promise, the Center for Hope and Safety, Children's Aid and Family Services, and the Holley Childcare and Development Center.

We have continued to advocate on behalf of those among us who most need our help, engaging in education, advocacy, and direct action. We hosted homeless families through Family Promise, splashed and swam with Paterson youth at Citizens for Swimming, wrote letters, attended conferences and workshops, and came together to host George Takei, renowned social justice activist.

It's been an amazing year so far!

We have much to look forward to. Work on our congregational focus – racial justice and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement – is well underway. Opportunities to get involved in this focus are woven into much of our programming this year. We'll be talking about racial justice and BLM in book discussions, small group ministry, Sunday Services, religious education, social responsibilities initiatives, lectures and other areas of congregational life. I hope that you won't hesitate to jump in and get involved in whatever interests you.

And so, as the President of the Board, and as your friend and fellow congregant, I thank you for bringing your whole selves to the work that we do. I am privileged to serve with you.

Warmest regards,
Suzanne

The USR office will be closed from December 25th through January 2nd. For facility emergencies, contact Ann Pareti at 201-753-0618. For pastoral emergencies, contact Martin Lavanhar at 845-351-2474. The Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson is available by appointment and can be reached at 646-515-4729. For all other inquiries, please leave a message and calls will be returned when the office reopens on January 4th, 2016. Thank you and have a happy and safe holiday season.

Goals and Objectives 2015-2016

Board of Trustees, Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Goals/Objectives		
Goal 1: Improve Internal Communications	Timeline	Status
Town Hall Meetings (TH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled: 2nd Sunday • Powerpoint on website within 48 hours • Gather metrics on attendance and participation 	Through June	Ongoing
Communicate with councils and committees to enhance governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather metrics on submission of monthly reports to BOT • Educate about new governance structure (Town Halls, newsletters, announcements) • Develop decision tree 	Through June 2016	Ongoing Nov TH; Dec newsletter Dec/Jan
Invite/Encourage congregants to attend BOT meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite all congregants to attend (newsletter, ws, announcements, eblasts) • Gather information about visitors, put in BOT minutes • Consider change in venue to accommodate visitors • Consider using technology to allow congregants to "attend" 	Through June	Ongoing Ongoing As needed Ongoing

Goals/Objectives	Timeline	Status
Provide feedback about BOT action, requests, reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to action requests within 48 hours of BOT meeting • Inform if BOT consideration/action is postponed 	Through June	Ongoing Ongoing
Develop Transition/Transfer plans for BOT; encourage for councils, committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update job descriptions • Develop plan for transition • Make use of dropbox 	Through May	By Dec By April Ongoing
Goal 2: Improve External Communication		
Continue to improve website	By June	Ongoing
Continue to expand utilization of ACS to include calendar for lay leaders	By June	Ongoing
Increase USR participation in UU denominational activities	By May	9 attendees Defying Gravity; Ongoing
Goal 3: Enhance Stewardship		
A/V Upgrade and Technology Upgrade	By Feb/March	Ongoing
Support Annual Budget Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustees serve as stewards and pre-pledge • BOT responds to 100% of donor suggestions 	By start of budget drive By June	Ongoing
Understand Legacy, Planned Giving, Endowment	By June	Ongoing

Goals/Objectives	Timeline	Status
Track Membership through monthly reports	By June	Ongoing
Review Nominations Process	By April	Ongoing
Support Interim Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Cottage meetings • Review congregants' anonymous reflections • Communicate with congregation about process • Prepare for the search process 	By October By January Ongoing Ongoing	Complet- ed Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Lay groundwork for evaluation of new settled minister and consider changing role of Committee on Ministries	By June	Ongoing
Review staff and volunteer positions in light of our mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess timelogs • Consider revising job descriptions • Educate congregants about staff job descriptions 	By October By January By June	Complet- ed Ongoing Ongoing
Review missions and goals of all committees, teams: all aligned with mission	By March	Ongoing
Goal 4: Plan for the Future		
Review Draft Long Range Plan in anticipation of the search process	By Jan/Feb	Ongoing
Evaluate long-term capital spending	By March	Ongoing

FROM THE BOARD

Save the Date!!

It's Time for the 48th Annual Service Auction!

It's that time again! The 48th annual Service Auction will take place on Saturday, January 23, 2016. (Snow date Saturday, January 30, 2016.)

The Service Auction is the USR's largest fundraiser of the year. It is a fun evening of great food, great company, and great offerings to bid on. We will have free childcare available for the evening! We need your talents, your time, and your support to help make this auction the best ever! We are looking for people to help on Silent Auction and raffles!

Please visit USR's website and follow the link to contribute your offerings.

Please contact LuAnn Markowitz or Dawn Walter with any questions. We appreciate your help and support!

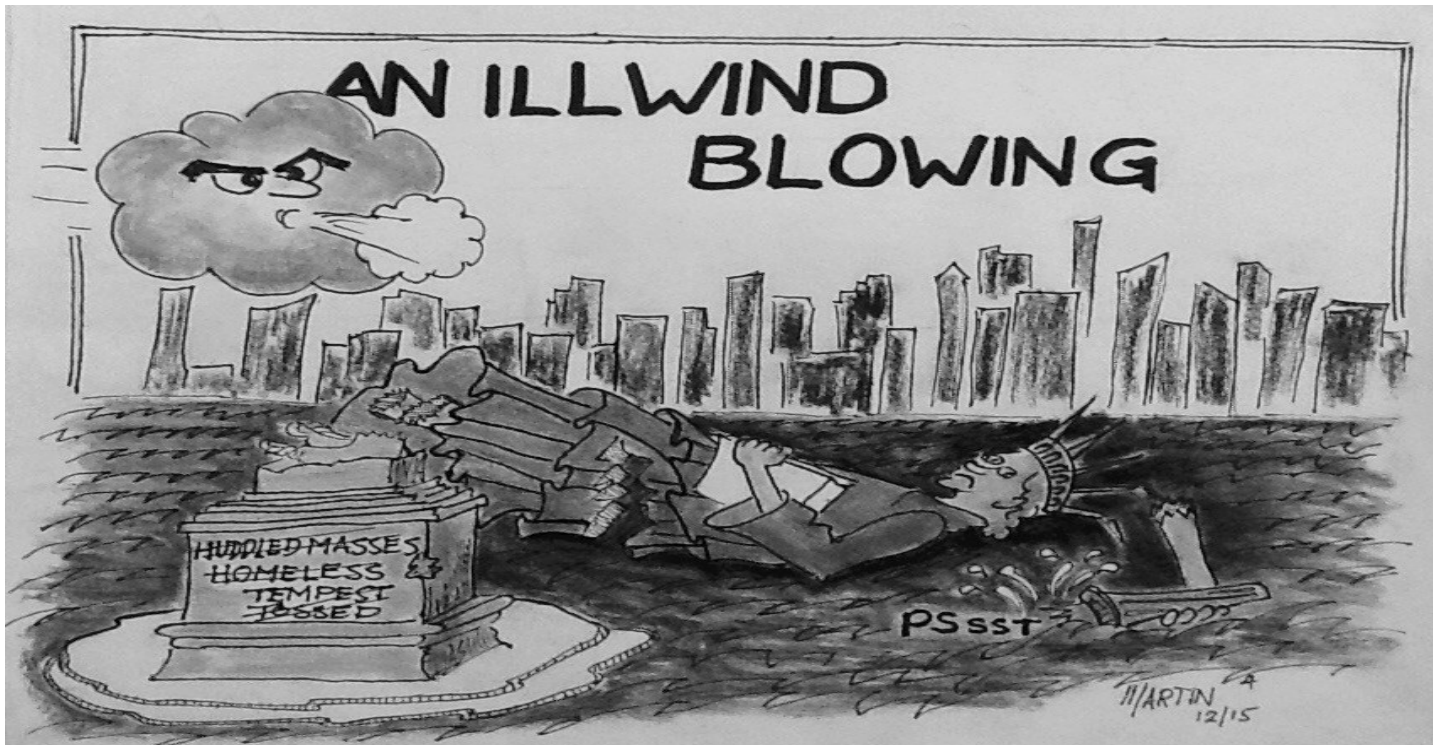
MEMBERSHIP

First Wednesday Brown Bag Luncheon



Please come to the First Wednesday Brownbag Luncheon to be held at 12:30 p.m. on December 2, 2015 hosted by Lea McGough. 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.

MINISTRY COUNCIL



MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

- December 6th **“Jesus, Buddha, Ganesha and the Holiday Tree” - Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson**
 What kinds of symbols mark the winter holidays? Trees are ancient symbols of life. The Christmas Tree was adapted from a pre-Christian practice. In the 1950s there were American Jewish families that set up a Hanukkah Bush. One year, a Jewish roommate added a Buddha to your interim minister’s Christmas Tree. And let’s not forget that Hanukkah begins at sundown. Musicians: Music from the Balkans; Ron Levy, piano
- December 13th **“What You Said!” - Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson**
 The Message reflects back to you what you said in the cottage meetings and offers the Interim Minister’s thoughts on what we all can learn from what you said in the meetings. Musicians: Timothy Ruzala, bassoon; Ron Levy, piano
- December 20th **Solstice Service - Multigenerational Service - Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson, Ron Levy and Johanna Seale**
 Musicians: USR Youth Choir; John Palatucci, euphonium; Ron Levy, piano
- December 24th **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Music, Stories and Reflections for all ages.** Musicians: Brass Force Five; Katy Wong, harp; Ron Levy, piano
- December 27th **“Poetry by the Fire” - led by Peter Levy and Friends.** Poetry, Lyrics, Music, prose, by a roaring fire. Come one, come all, and read your own or that of others in our circle of community.
 Musicians: Selections from Seymour Barab’s “Alice in Wonderland,” for narrator, cello and piano; Ron Levy, piano

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We send out good wishes to Jack Seymour who is recuperating at home after a short hospital stay.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

FREE CPR/AED Training

Did you know that CPR may help cardiac arrest survivors return to work? According to a study done in Denmark in 2015, people in cardiac arrest who received CPR from a bystander were nearly 40% more likely to go back to work compared with those who didn’t get CPR. Look for the flyer in this newsletter and register for the APR/AED training on January 9, 2016.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Martin Luther King Day Observances for All Monday, January 18, 2016

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events at USR:

For USR Youth: Help younger children with crafts, games, books, toys...It is an opportunity to have fun with the RE kids and our guests from Paterson. 9:30 to 1:30 at USR.

For USR Families: Parents, preschoolers and elementary-age children play alongside our guests from Paterson and take part in activities. There will be board games, construction toys, arts and crafts material and entertainment. 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at USR.

All activities will be coordinated by Karen Ramsahai and Sean Brennan. Please contact them to volunteer for this important program.

Lunch will be served. For reservations please email Donald Campolo.

For Adults: For those who have not volunteered to participate in MLK Day at USR there is an opportunity to participate in the 34th Annual Martin Luther King Day Jr. Celebration. It will be held at the United Methodist Church in Ridgewood at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee of Ridgewood & Glen Rock for this annual observance. The theme this year is "We shall not be silent!!" The program will feature The Rev. Joseph Ellwanger, Pastor Emeritus Pastor of Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, 1967-2001, probably best known as a civil rights activist who marched alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and led a group of white citizens in support of black voters' rights in Selma, Ala., in 1965.

This will be followed by an outdoor rally, free community luncheon, and viewing of a film, by Rabbi Joachin Prinz, President of the American Jewish Congress, "I Can't Be Silent" .

For information about the MLK community celebration contact Carol Loscalzo or Carolyn Musser.



Update on the Situation in Burundi - Appeal for help

In the November newsletter we informed you about the attack on the UU congregation in Burundi, Africa. Rev. Fulgence has since been arrested and detained. Resources around the world have been mobilized to obtain his release. UU leaders are working through the UN, several USA congressional offices, human rights organizations, embassy personnel in Buja and Washington DC, and more. The UUA (UUA.org), the ICUU (icuu.net) and the UUSC (uusc.org) are monitoring the crisis. On the next page is a list of 9 Things any UU can do to win Rev. Fulgence's release. You can follow on twitter at #ReleaseRevFulgence. At USR we are looking for somebody to step into a leadership position to keep the congregation informed about our friend, Rev. Fulgence. If you can help, please contact Carol Loscalzo. Thank you!

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Call to Action: Support for the Unitarian Church of Burundi

Quick Links:

- *Sign the change.org petition calling for Rev. Fulgence's release by clicking on <https://www.change.org/p/burundi-president-pierre-nkurunziza-release-rev-fulgence-ndagijimana-from-burundi-police-custody>
- * Contact the Burundian ambassador to the US
- * For updates, follow ICUU Facebook page, click on (<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalUUs/>)

Nine Things Any of Us Can Do to Help #ReleaseRevFulgence

1. Sign the petition on change.org calling for Rev. Fulgence's release--every voice helps; click <https://www.change.org/p/burundi-president-pierre-nkurunziza-release-rev-fulgence-ndagijimana-from-burundi-police-custody>
 2. Send an email--see the end of the article for names of where (for Canada and the US);
 3. Send a letter--just print out the email, and send it via post. Letters that arrive by mail have a much stronger effect (although email is important, too--especially in this kind of urgent case!);
 4. Post to Social Media, using the hashtag #ReleaseRevFulgence. Share a story about him. Talk about why it matters to you. Know that politicians are watching this hashtag--and so are people in Burundi. Politicians, police. Members of the Church. Fulgence's lawyers. His friends and family.
 5. Use a picture. Post an image of yourself (and your community) holding signs that ask for his release. Kids' drawings. Images get lots of attention.
 6. Like the Facebook page by clicking <https://www.facebook.com/SupportUUBurundi/> and to stay up to date and to make your support visible.
 7. Approach an organization (such as your local Church--including but not limited to UUs) and ask them for a letter of support, a spot in their newsletter, etc.
- Remember, Rev Fulgence is not just a Minister. He works with AIDS orphans, scholarship programs, and more.
8. Think about the media: Do you know of a local organization planning an event or response? Encourage them to do a press release! Pressure that crosses multiple forms of media is highly effective.
 9. Stay up to date. Watch icuu.net for further updates!

For Americans:

John Kerry, Secretary of State
 US. Department of State – Diplomacy in Action
 no email address published but you can send a message on the CONTACT US page
<https://register.state.gov/contactus/contactusform>

Burundi Embassy
 Ambassador Ernest Ndabashinze
 2233 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 408
 Washington, DC 20007
burundiembusadc@gmail.com

Ambassador Dawn Liberi
 American Embassy Bujumbura
 B.P. 1720
 Avenue Des Etats-Unis
 Bujumbura, Burundi
BujumburaC@state.gov

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

~Our Generous Community~

“First Friends of New Jersey & New York” says Thank You!

“First Friends” (www.firstfriendsnjny.org) programs provide compassionate support to immigration detainees in New Jersey/New York prisons and detention centers. The work cannot be done without the support of friends and volunteers like the people of USR who contributed \$800 during the plate collection on November 15th.



North Jersey Fiber Arts Festival Attendees Contribute to YCS

Thanks to the contributions of generous attendees and friends of the fiber arts, our UU sponsored North Jersey Fiber Arts Festival will be able to donate a delightful hoard of hand-crafted baby sweaters, booties, hats, blankets and toys to two programs coordinated by YCS, the 100 year old Youth Consultation Service. YCS will distribute these cuddly items to the nurse partnership program in Essex County - an at home nursing care program where a nurse partners with a new first-time mom and offers health and social service support. Other donations will go to a newly established daycare center for high school moms.

Many thanks to our contributors for a job well done. Ewe are the best!

Marilyn Maney
NJFAF Outreach Coordinator

Plate Collection Announcement for December 13, 2015

Each month The Social Responsibilities Council sponsors one plate collection per month dedicated to a social justice cause. For the December 13th collection, the Council voted to support the New Jersey Abortion Access Fund (NJAAF).

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. We partner with providers and social service agencies in New Jersey to help women access the care they need.

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. We recognize the many obstacles that women face in gaining and maintaining control of their reproductive rights and believe that access to abortion is a vital part of reproductive justice. We oppose all efforts to restrict abortion rights and are committed to fighting for access to reproductive care for all women.

This fund was initiated by the USR Reproductive Justice Committee and created within the walls of USR. Currently there are 2 members of this congregation who are board members of NJAAF – Carol Loscalzo, President and Susanne Fuhrman, Vice President. Caitlin Williams, a friend of the congregation and member of the Reproductive Justice Committee, serves as a trustee.

The hostile climate surrounding reproductive rights, particularly lately, has created even greater obstacles for women as they make intimate decisions about their reproductive rights. USR has responded very generously in the past. We are so grateful for your past donations, and we thank you for your continued support.

SAVE THE DATE

SAVE A LIFE



CPR Being Performed on a Mannequin

**FREE AED/CPR Training Opportunity
For all Ages...Youth through Elders.
Certification will cover adults, children
and infants**

Saturday, January 9th, 2016

9 a.m. to 12 noon

Fellowship Room

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

113 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ

(Snow Date: Saturday, January 16th)

To register, please email or call the USR secretary, Chandrika Chowdhry, usr.secretary@gmail.com or call 201-444-6225. Email Carol Loscalzo at closcalzo2@aol.com if you have any questions or require additional information. Childcare available with two weeks notice, email usr.membership1@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Safe Congregation Committee

DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:30 Staff Mtg 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	2 7:30 Writer's Group/Conference Rm	3 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	4	5 10:00 Transition Team/Upstairs Mtg Rm
6 10:00 Service 11:00 Town Hall Mtg 11:30 Reproductive Justice Mtg/Conference Rm 12:00 Transition Team/Upstairs Mtg Rm	7 12:30 Understanding Human Behavior class/Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board Mtg/Conference Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	8 10:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 CYRE Mtg/Youth Rm 7:00 Racial Justice Mtg/Conference Rm	9 7:30 Writer's Group/Conference Rm	10 1:00 LIFFT/Fellowship Rm	11	12
13 10:00 Service 11:00 Sexual Abuse Training/RE 11:45 Connections/Youth Rm	14 12:30 Understanding Human Behavior class/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	15 10:30 Staff Mtg 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	16 7:30 Writer's Group/Youth Rm	17 7:30 Connections/Youth Room	18	19
20 10:00 Service 11:30 Peace & Justice Mtg/Conference Rm	21 12:30 Understanding Human Behavior class/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	22 10:30 Staff Mtg	23 7:30 Writer's Group/Conference Rm	24 1 :00 LIFFT/Fellowship Rm	25	26
27 10:00 Service 11:45 Connections/Youth Rm	28 12:30 Understanding Human Behavior class/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	29 10:30 Staff Mtg	30 7:30 Writer's Group/Conference Rm	31	*Monday Night Zen: First-Timers, please call Marcia Spitz	

Editor/Membership Administrator: Ann Pareti 201-444-6225
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Chandrika Chowdhry, Secretary 201-444-6225
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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 December 20th deadline
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com