



January 2020

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown bag Luncheon – January 8, 2020



Due to inclement weather the First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on December 11th was cancelled, however Jan Bottcher has generously agreed to try again to host the next Luncheon on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 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 give you directions if needed. We are both newcomers and old-timers. Hope to see you there.

SAFE CONGREGATION RESPONSE TEAM

Save the Date for AED/CPR Training: January 11, 2020!

It is that time of year again. Please read and consider registering for this training. The Safe Congregation Response Team is offering **AED/CPR training on Saturday, January 11, 2020** (Snow date: January 18) from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. It will include basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR) for adults, children and infants as well as Automated External Defibrillator training. The team is pleased to offer this excellent training for the small charge of \$30 for the first 10 USR congregants who register. To register, email Chandrika Chowdhry at usr.secretary@gmail.com. Questions? Email Carol Loscalzo.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

USR Annual Society Auction - January 25, 2020

Please Save the Date -- Saturday evening, January 25, 2020 for the annual Society Auction. Come and celebrate 52 Years of fun and fellowship at the largest USR fundraiser! The forms for submitting your generous offerings are available on USR website or click [here](#) to fill out auction offering forms now. **The deadline to submit your donations is January 5.** Please RSVP to Robin Ritter to make your reservations for January 25th.

SAVE THE DATE SAVE A LIFE

AED/CPR

Training Opportunity

Saturday, January 11th, 2020

Snow Date: Saturday, January 18th

AED/CPR Training Opportunity

for USR Members and Friends

Certification will cover adults, children and infants

Saturday, January 11, 2020
9 am to 12 noon

(Snow Date: Saturday, January 18th)

\$30 for first 10 USR congregants who register to defray the cost

Fellowship Room
The Unitarian Society
of Ridgewood
113 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ

To register, please email the USR secretary, Chandrika Chowdhry at 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.dre1@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Safe Congregation Response Team

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

January Plate Collection

C.A.M.P. YDP in Paterson is the recipient of 50% of the January plate collection.

In a time when worthy non-profit organizations are struggling, C.A.M.P. needs your support more than ever.

C.A.M.P. YDP is an afterschool program, preschool program, and summer program for children on the northside of Paterson, about 10 miles from Ridgewood. Most of these kids are children of color. Many of them come from single parent households. Most are living at, or below, the poverty line. Parents are working, but struggling to buy food and pay rent, which leaves their children without the resources (babysitters, sports programs, tutors, summer camp...) that many of our kids take for granted.

The board recently revamped C.A.M.P.'s mission and vision statements and is working hard to get the programming in line with them. They believe that the children and families deserve the best education and should have experiences and opportunities to excel. USR's continued support will help them to achieve this goal.

C.A.M.P. aims to provide a safe after school experience with guided homework help, a full day preschool for children who are not accepted to the public preschool, and enriching experiences as part of a summer program. All of these are resources that the C.A.M.P. parents cannot afford to provide.

They are currently serving over 100 students, an increase from last year, providing a safe-haven, meals, early learning opportunities and homework help. They are on track for goal of reaching our license capacity of 129 children.

During the summer, C.A.M.P. provides educational and recreational field trips. They plan to offer scholarships to needy families in the summer to pay for their field trips. It is their goal to make sure every child attends the trips regardless of the family's financial situation. C.A.M.P. summer fees are \$100.

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood has a long history with C.A.M.P. YDP. Generations of volunteers beginning in the 1970s and continuing with Judith Brauburger and Jan Bottcher assisting afterschool program. Citizens for Swimming supported by USR provides lessons and fun at Graydon Pool during the summer.

Your donations in the January plate collection will continue this tradition of support for our neighbors in Paterson.

For Family Promise

Our next volunteer opportunity for Family Promise is in March. Family Promise is a shelter for homeless families. The director, Kate Duggan, recently told me about how this program changes lives over generations. A client in the program years ago had 3 children, who were informed about Ramapo College and helped to apply. The family had never thought about higher education. They all went, they all graduated, and they are all employed at excellent jobs now. The program tries to address and remedy the causes of homelessness, not just the immediate needs. For information, please contact Betsy Longendorfer.



Happy Merry--for Justice!

Lame Duck Session Yields Big Wins for UU/Human Values



Crowds outside the NJ State House, Dec. 19, 2019

Dear Ira,

Frequently, Lame Duck sessions (that chaotic time period right before the end of one 2-yr. legislative session and the beginning of the next) yield long-awaited outcomes...and this lame duck session has been no exception!

We are thrilled to announce that through your calls, emails and pounding the pavement, several critical pieces of legislation have at long last PASSED that UU FaithAction (and for that matter, UULMNJ) has championed over the past years:

- **Voter Expansion for Parolees and Probationers**, allowing an additional 83,000 New Jerseyans to exercise their right to vote. With over half of those currently in the parole/probation system African-Americans (despite being only 15% of the overall population) NJ was in the unenviable position of currently denying voting rights to more African-Americans than were denied prior to passage of the 15th Amendment.
- **Driver's Licenses for Those with Limited Documentation**, [S-3229/A-4743](#) (for a good article covering the many issues and state politics involved, as well as those Dems and Republicans who voted "No," I recommend this [NJ Spotlight article](#)).
- S761, the "**Earn Your Way Out Act**," would automatically grant parole to non-violent and non-sex offenders on their first eligibility date if they do not break any serious rules or laws while in prison and have completed rehabilitation programs and the crime victims have been notified.
- Several **environmental bills** advanced, including bills affecting lead in the water and electric vehicles.
- **The Dignity Act for Incarcerated Parents and Title X restoration of funding**, both long supported by our *Reproductive* and *Criminal Justice Reform Task Forces*, also passed allowing parents increased rights to visitation and providing emergency funding for clinics who do not comply with the Trump Administration's abortion policy (more on the latter in [a good article here](#)).

- **Marijuana legalization**, long a hot political potato in the legislature, has been cleared by votes in both houses to appear on next year's November ballot. Some of the decriminalization issues that we have worked hard to include in any legalization measures remain to be implemented legislatively but the Expungement measure for minor drug violations passed both houses and the Governor has indicated he would sign.

Though for each of the above there remains one final hurdle--Gov. Murphy's signature--every indication from his staffers and office is that he will sign each of them.

It was exciting to be with so many people who care so passionately about other New Jerseyans, regardless of their race, orientation, gender, or status!



The photo above shows how close I was able to get to the Assembly Visitor's Gallery up until the vital License vote, when I was able to squeeze in to cheer (very briefly--decorum dictates a mostly silent Visitor's Gallery) and hug other activists--and to represent for UUs across the state.


We couldn't ask for better Christmas and Hanukkah presents...justice, hope, expanding the circle of dignity and love here in the Garden State. Thanks to each of you who plug away, during good times and bad, with deep faith and an activist's heart. *A UU heart*, I would call it.

In hope, with love, and for justice,
Rev. Rob Gregson, Executive Director, UU FaithAction NJ

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee

The Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee of Ridgewood/Glen Rock is again offering a full range of programs for MLK Weekend (January 17 - 20). Please take a look at the offerings and join the committee for one or all of the events. The culmination will of course be the interfaith service on Monday, January 20, the 39th year of the committee hosting services in Ridgewood. USR liaisons to the MLK Committee: Carolyn Musser, Carol Loscalzo, co-chairs, The Racial Justice Committee.



THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
OF RIDGEWOOD & GLEN ROCK

MLK

FEATURING:
INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE
WITH
REVEREND DR. KEISHA AGARD

**POSITIVE
PEACE**

**COMPASSIONATE
JUSTICE**

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

FILM & DISCUSSION
RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
125 N. Maple Ave. • Ridgewood, NJ 07450
6:30pm

SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION
(2009; US; NR; 1h22m)
A fresh and exhilarating take on one of the most important social movements in American history, this film explores the civil rights struggle through the powerful and stirring songs that inspired a generation. Legends of the fight for equal rights such as Congressman John Lewis, Julian Bond, Ambassador Andrew Young and Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow, Coretta Scott King, testify to the indispensable role that songs of rebellion and hope played in helping activists fight against brutality and injustice. In riveting studio performances, top contemporary artists including John Legend, Wyclef Jean, The Roots and Joss Stone reinvigorate and reinvent timeless songs like "We Shall Overcome" and "Wade in the Water."

SPEAKER
REVEREND MACK BRANDON

- Refreshments will be served
- Reservations required

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ridgewoodlibrary.org/events/reelvoicesfilmfestival

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

DAY OF SERVICE PROJECT
GLEN ROCK ANNEX
678 S. Maple Ave. • Glen Rock, NJ 07452
11:00am - 2:30pm

MULTICULTURAL BOOK DRIVE
While all donations are welcome, this year's book drive highlights books, for grade school children, with various multicultural themes. Recommended books can be found at: <http://bit.ly/BooksMLK> (link is case sensitive).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

GOSPEL CONCERT
MOUNT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
399 S. Broad Street • Ridgewood, NJ 07450
4:00pm


MONDAY, JANUARY 20

INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE
RIDGEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
100 Dayton Street • Ridgewood, NJ 07450
10:00AM

FEATURED SPEAKER
REVEREND DR. KEISHA AGARD
Assistant Pastor
Vanderveer Park United Methodist Church
Brooklyn, NY

ANNUAL MARCH
VAN NESTE SQUARE

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
QUIMBY HALL

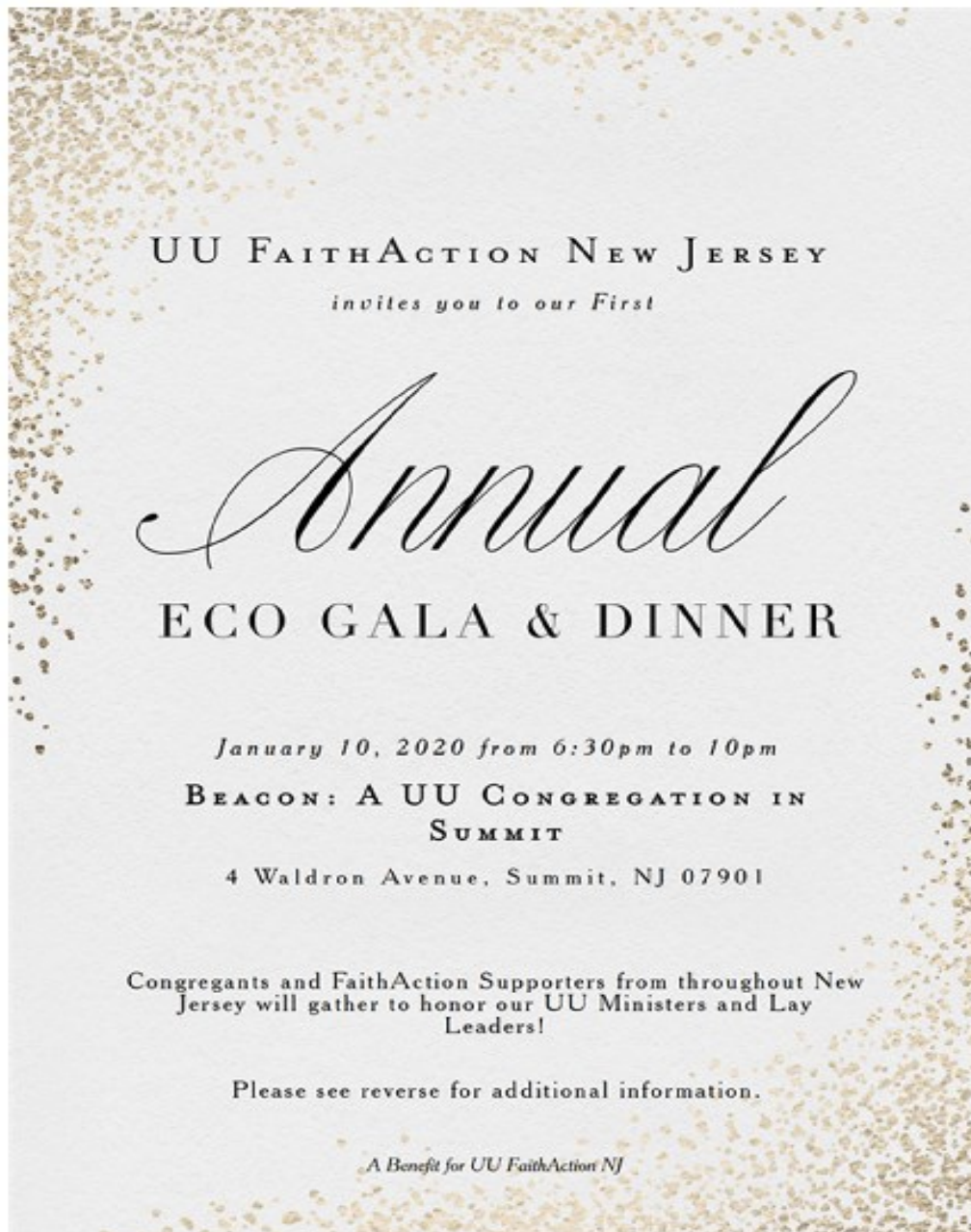
 Follow us on Facebook for more timely updates at: @MLKGlenRockRidgewoodNJ

• ALL EVENTS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC •

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

UU FaithAction NJ

Complete information about the Eco Gala & Dinner is available at the Social Responsibilities table at coffee hour.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship	3	4
5 10:00 Service - Rev. Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:15 Circle Implemen- tation Team/Anderson 11:15 Membership Comm./Conference Room	6 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:00 USR Board Meeting/Conf. Room 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Room	7 7:30 Covenant Group/Youth Room	8 7:30 Covenant Grp/Youth Room	9 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Anderson Hall	10	11 9:00 AED/CPR Training/Fellowship
12 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Newcomer's Brunch/Conf. Room 11:30 Reproductive Justice Comm./Upstairs Mtg. Room	13 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm.	14 7:00 Covenant Group/ Conference Room	15 3:30 One Book USR/Conference Room 7:30 Covenant Group/ Conference Room	16 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship Rm.	17	18 9:00 (AED/CPR Training Snow date)
19 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Peace & Justice Comm./Conf. Room	20 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:00 Sunday Service Comm./ Conf. Room 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Room	21 7:30 Covenant Group/Youth Room	22	23 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship Rm.	24	25 6:00 Annual Society Auction/Anderson Hall
26 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Environmental Justice Comm./Conf. Room 11:30 Teacher Inservice/RE Room	27 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Room	28	29 7:00 Racial Justice Comm./ Conference Room	30 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship Rm.	31	

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Society Office Hours: 9:00—3:00, Monday-Friday

Website www.uuridgewood.org

Board of Trustees

Sally Lewis, President Rose Griffith, Trustee

Dawn Walter, Vice President Kristin Bluemel, Trustee

Chris Dunnigan, Treasurer Robert Markowitz, Trustee

Bernie Josefsberg, Secretary

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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 January 20th deadline
@ usr.secretary@gmail.com