



February 2020

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown bag Luncheon – February 5, 2020



Please come to the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on February 5, 2020 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 that you are coming and let her give you directions if needed. Whether you are new or an old-timer, give us a try. You will meet other newcomers and old-timers too. Hope to see you there. All are welcome.

UUA General Assembly (GA) Delegates Wanted

Attendees at the General Assembly learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year's GA is in Providence, Rhode Island, three to four hours drive from Ridgewood.

"Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!" is the theme for General Assembly in June 2020. We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world." Delegates can go to Providence and are responsible for their own transportation, housing, food and registration costs. **Early Bird registration ends on March 15th.** Registration costs go up on March 16th. There is a new payment plan. For more information, click on the following link:

<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/ga flyer2020.pdf>

Another option is to be an off-site delegate and just be responsible for the off-site registration cost, which is less than the on-site registration cost. Off-site delegates would attend meetings and seminars, which are live streamed, from the comfort of their home or any location they choose. Off-site delegates can make motions, ask questions and vote on issues important to the UUA. If you are interested and/or have any questions, please contact Laura Krag or Martin Lavanhar.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Endowment Fund Applications

The Planned Giving Committee oversees the USR Endowment fund which has been used to support our mission and assist social justice causes in the community. The fund supplements our monthly plate collection for worthy charities and represents a tangible expression of living our values. In the past, we have supported a number of worthy causes including SHARE renovations, education in Paterson, sponsorship of families seeking political asylum, Citizens for Swimming, and racial justice. Last year, we awarded approximately \$10,000 and we anticipate being in a position to award a similar amount in 2020. **The deadline for applications is March 1.** Please contact the USR office for applications that can be obtained either in a hard copy or via email. Applications can be sent to Mike Azzara, Chair of the Planned Giving Committee.

SAVE THE DATE for Fellowship Feast - March 21, 2020: Fellowship Feast is an evening to dine, connect, and celebrate the success of the Budget Drive. Child care will be offered. Watch for further details!

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

February Plate Collection

Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, BVMI, www.bvmi.org, continues to meet a critical and growing need in Bergen County by providing free primary, sick and preventive care to low-income residents who do not have health insurance or the ability to pay. Individuals/families who make up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level (\$30,150 for an individual and \$61,500 for a family of 4) are eligible. Nearly 46,000 Bergen County adults make less than that level so the need in Bergen County is great and that is reflected in rising volumes of patients at BVMI which has been growing at a double digit rate the last few years.

BVMI is one of approximately 100 centers across the country and 5 in NJ that rely on volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, dieticians, and other professional and support staff to provide most of the care. All of the lab work is provided free by Quest Diagnostics and the 5 Bergen County hospitals and about 200 specialty physicians accept referrals without any charge. With strong programs in Women's health, Diabetes Management and Obesity, BVMI has a strong focus on prevention and chronic disease management and has been able to reduce emergency room utilization, keep people well, and address some of the social factors which influence health. BVMI has recently launched a Korean Healthcare program to meet the needs of the large population in Bergen County, many of whom may be working in small businesses without health care coverage. Please be generous.

Thank You!

Thank you for donations to the Shared Plate Collection for December. \$1121.15 was donated to 'Partners for Women and Justice'. This organization empowers low-income victims and survivors of domestic violence to build safe and secure futures for themselves and their children by providing equal access to justice. Quality legal assistance is offered in domestic violence and family law matters.

Thank you for the generous donations on Christmas Eve to M-WRAP (Maternal Wrap Around Program) of Eva's Village in Paterson. \$1,008.41 was donated for services to help pregnant women with Substance Use Disorders to experience a healthy pregnancy and birth. M-WRAP offers access to optimal pre- and post-natal health care, plus support and treatment for substance abuse. The program also provides support to keep mothers and children together and to strengthen family relationships.

Plate Collection Application Deadline

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 September 2018, the shared plate collection was begun. SRC continues to manage the applications and decisions regarding the applications. **The deadline to submit applications for the next cycle is Friday, February 21.** The Council will consider all requests made by members and friends of the USR. The cause should be consistent with the mission of USR to be "a beacon of justice and love in the world." The applications are on the USR website. Please complete the form and submit it to the office or send to Carol Loscalzo. Questions: ask Carol or any member of the SRC. All social justice chairs and co-chairs are on the Council.

SAVE THE DATE! March 4, 2020

The Racial Justice Committee is excited to be hosting Ari Berman, author of "Give Us The Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America" on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:15 p.m. at the Ridgewood Library. Mr. Berman is a nationally known expert on voter suppression. His topic for the evening will be "Voter Suppression and the 2020 Election." The Racial Justice Committee feels that this year especially, the issue of voter suppression and voting rights is paramount to an equitable election in November. Please join us.

Family Promise

Our volunteer days in March are coming soon! I don't have the exact dates yet, but we'll be looking for cooks/overnight volunteers for a Sunday or Monday night. Family Promise has a great video on their website (bergenfamilypromise.org) showing former guests commenting on their stay, and it's very moving. Besides the family shelter, there are other programs, including a summer camp, some transitional apartments, and a walk-in dinner program. Please contact Betsy Longendorfer for more information.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Below is a very important article highlighting the bills passed during the Lam Duck Session that Gov. Murphy signed into law on 1/21/20. The bills were the result of grass roots efforts of many groups, including Unitarian Universalist Faith Action NJ.

Breaking News (Insider NJ 1/21/20) TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation to expand and strengthen democracy in New Jersey. The bills will provide protections and security for online voter registration while expanding access to the ballot for New Jerseyans. Today's signings add to the list of reforms expanding democracy enacted during the Murphy administration, including automatic voter registration and the restoration of the right to vote for residents on probation or parole.

"We are stronger and fairer when more New Jerseyans are represented in our democracy," **said Governor Murphy**. "Expanding access to voting is one of many ways we can work to enfranchise more voters and ensure that all eligible voters are able to participate in the democratic process."

- **S589 (Weinberg/Mosquera, Jones, Eustace, Moriarty)** – Requires Secretary of State to establish secure Internet website for online voter registration; authorizes use of digitized signatures from New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission's database.

- **S758 (Cunningham, Cruz-Perez/Sumter, Mukherji, Quijano)** – Requires incarcerated individual from State to be counted at residential address for legislative redistricting purposes.

- **A4564 (Zwicker, Freiman/Greenstein)** – Establishes "Voting Precinct Transparency Act"; requires filing of election district, county district, and municipal ward boundary data with Secretary of State for posting and download on official website with matching election results data.

"These voting bills, which will make democracy more accessible, more fair, and more transparent in our state, are reflective of grassroots efforts of advocates on the ground who are determined — despite the troubling national moment we find ourselves in — to build democracy from the ground up in New Jersey," **said Ryan P. Haygood, President & CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice**. "We commend Governor Murphy for signing these bills into law, and look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to continue to strengthen our democracy in the Garden State."

"These three laws offer promise to make our democracy more representative at a time when the principle of 'one person, one vote' has come under assault, and racially biased voting laws are being advanced nationwide. Everyone deserves a voice, whether through the ballot box or being counted truthfully when districts are apportioned, and these laws amplify that microphone democracy provides. Tearing down barriers and modernizing registration, shining a light into the electoral process, and allocating representation accurately are important steps toward a fairer, freer system of democracy. New Jersey has responded to attacks on our right to vote by strengthening the power of the people," **said ACLU-NJ Executive Director Amol Sinha**.

"Governor Murphy continues to lead the nation in reform for the criminal legal system," **said Bonnie Kerness, Director of the American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch Program**. "People in prison are from, and in a very real sense, remain present in the communities where their loved ones are. Given how much dialogue there is recently on election fraud, this is one clear way to restore broken communities."

"These reforms make our democracy more transparent, inclusive, and accessible. We applaud Governor Murphy and the legislature for their commitment to empowering voters and removing barriers to participation. At a time when too many Americans feel they do not have a meaningful voice in democracy, New Jersey is establishing ourselves as a leader in protecting the sacred right to vote and expanding access for those who have been marginalized and left out of our democratic process," **said Jesse Burns, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey**.

"At a time when the right to vote is threatened all over the country, it is exciting to see New Jersey continue to enact pro-voter reforms," **said Myrna Pérez, director of the Voting Rights and Elections Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law**. "We hope other states follow New Jersey's lead."

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

GREEN RESOLUTIONS

New Years resolutions signal our intent to do good, either for ourselves (think diets!) or others (think environment!). The **Environmental Justice Committee** has gathered a sampling of GREEN New Years resolutions from some of our USR friends that help us reduce our carbon footprint.

Let's be inspired by each other!

Jan Bottcher and Jackie Nadler

Resolve to bring a reusable bag to **all** stores, not just grocery stores.

Chandrika Chowdhry I carry a bag from home for the groceries and pay a lot of bills online to save paper.

Jeri Cohn

Bring a cup or travel mug when getting coffee. Wendy's will not refill them but most other places we have been to will. Ask for no straw before they give you one.

Pam Hahn

Incorporate more meat free days into my diet.

Jeanne Nametz

I now save any containers from take out food that are not recyclable and use them for scooping up kitty litter.

Anita DiGiulio

For 2020 I am trying to reduce the accumulation of plastic containers. I have found a supplier of protein powder (for smoothies) in bags and another one for refillable shampoo supplies. Next I want to start buying my trail mix in bulk instead of plastic containers.

Sally Lewis

I resolve to walk to 90% of my meetings at USR.

Valerie Wallace

Here are a few that we try to follow whenever possible:

- Travel with reusable utensils and straws, refuse disposable.
- Pack lunches in reusable containers, avoid single use plastic bags.
- Buy bulk snacks/drinks and transfer to reusable snack bags/drink containers.

Carol Loscalzo

I resolve to use my reusable container for water more frequently.

Marilyn Maney

Research options to make travel more environmentally friendly.

Suzanne Willis

We are using reusable shopping bags for groceries and no bags whenever we can when buying small items. It also helps that Paramus and Ridgewood have done away with plastic bags. It's the "Costco" style of shopping.

Susan Burleson

I will have my house evaluated for solar panel installation.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Georgetta Walsh

I'm collecting all the plastic that covers individual paper towel rolls, 24 pack of toilet paper... and giving it to the Warwick Garden Club. Once they have enough, the people who make the TREX products will donate a bench made of TREX to the Garden Club. Everyone can do this by giving it to Kathryn Ives.

Ann Pareti

For work, I am asking the custodian to reuse the plastic bags in our office trash cans as long as possible vs. throwing them out with the garbage.

Kristen Plumley

**Turn off the faucet when you're brushing your teeth.

**When hand washing dishes, soap and scrub them all first, then turn on the water and rinse everything.

**Remember that toilet paper and paper towel cardboard tubes are recyclable.

Don Campolo

I'll pay more attention to my compost bin and use more of my compost around the garden.

Lisa Voyce

Will read up on ways to go green:

<https://www.organiclesson.com/how-to-go-green/>

Elyse Pleasic

1. Reduce plastic waste by placing non-wet garbage in a paper bag
2. Reduce waste by using old towels and t-shirts as rags for clean up in place of paper towels
3. Purchase long life bulbs when replacing light bulbs
4. Make cleaning supplies from vinegar, lemon juice and water - a great way to cut grease. Also baking soda mixed with water makes an excellent scrubbing solution.

Marshall Katzman

I'm saving up for an electric Mustang!



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Potlucks, methane and food waste. What's that's that got to do with justice?

It's been estimated that Americans throw away 40% of their food, and globally that one third of the food processed for human consumption is wasted, producing 3.3 billion tons of carbon. Much of that food waste goes to landfills and incinerators which are located near poor communities, urban and rural, contributing to air pollution and health issues for those who have fewer resources to fight back. Add to that the whopping greenhouse gasses cause by livestock production and you see why the UUA challenged us to study ethical eating as part of a Statement of Conscience entitled, Ethical Eating: Food & Environmental Justice. (<https://www.uua.org/environment/eating>) We promote justice by recognizing the twin problems of food waste and agricultural practices that contradict good stewardship of the earth and affect the health and well being of our neighbors.

To find out more come to :

***The second annual family friendly
VEGETARIAN pot luck dinner
on
Sunday, Feb. 23 at 6:00 pm.
(see flyer attached here for details)***



THE
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO A



Vegetarian Potluck

Sunday, February 23, 2020
at 6:00pm Fellowship Room

What to bring: – a vegetarian dish to share
– a reuseable container to take home leftovers
– a donation of canned food for a local food pantry

Beverages will be served.
Children and youth are welcome to attend!

Co-sponsored with
the Hunger and
Homeless Committee

the
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood
113 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
www.uuridgewood.org



BAHA'I



HINDU



ISLAM



JAIN



JEWISH



PROTESTANT



SIKH

ROMAN
CATHOLICUNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST

Presented by the Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood Committee of Bergen County...

Welcoming your Neighbor

Monday, February 17th, 2020 - 10 am to 2 pm

Seasons, 644 Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ



Imam Sohaib Sultan, Keynote Speaker

The first full-time Muslim Chaplain at Princeton University, an author of two books and several publications, he directs the Muslim Life Program for the past 12 years. He organizes and leads religious gatherings offering spiritual counseling and care, in addition to facilitating educational opportunities to deepen appreciation and perspectives on faith.

Brunch and Roundtable Conversations

Enjoy food and conversations with your neighbor. Kosher, Halal and Vegetarian meals available.

Interfaith Fair & Islamic Performance

Learn about and experience our nine Bergen County faith communities.

Purchase tickets in advance! Call your religious community.

Baha'i

201-468-4048

Jewish

201-337-0224

Roman Catholic

201-935-6492

Hindu

201-818-0969

Muslim

201-675-0516

Sikh

201-566-4644

Jain

201-321-5626

Protestant

201-403-4341

Unitarian Universalist

201-262-6300

Advance sale tickets available until February 1st. Make checks payable to Elzahra Islamic Center.
Bring food donations for Center for Food Action.

\$40 Adults & \$30 for children ages 12 and under ■ Free Parking ■ Wheel Chair Accessible

Our 33rd Annual Gathering! Sponsored by nine faith communities in Bergen County and hosted this year by the Muslim Community. Visit seasonscatering.com for venue information.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:00 Judy Silver Memorial Service/ Anderson Hall
2 10:00 Service - Rev. Rosemarie Newberry 11:00 Mid-Year Congregational Meeting/ Anderson Hall	3 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:00 USR Board Meeting/Conf. Room 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Room	4 7:30 Covenant Grp/Youth Room	5	6 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship	7	8 11:00 Brad Jordan Memorial Service/ Anderson Hall
9 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 UU Class/Conf. Room	10 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm.	11 7:00 Covenant Group/ Conference Room	12	13 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship Rm.	14	15
16 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Peace & Justice Comm./Conf. Room	17 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:00 Sunday Service Comm./ Conf. Room 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Room	18 7:30 Covenant Group/Youth Room	19 3:30 One Book USR/Conference Room	20 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship Rm.	21	22
23 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:15 Environmental Justice Comm./Conf. Room 11:30 Reproductive Justice Comm./Upstairs Mtg. Rm. 6:00 Environmental Justice Potluck/ Fellowship Room	24 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm. 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Room	25	26	27 7:45 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship Rm.	28	29 5:00 Lead Donor Event/Fellowship Room

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