



From the Minister's Mailbox

April is upon us! When you read this, we will have marked Passover and Easter Sunday, holidays that both lift up transformation and change. Sometimes change comes to us because we have invited it in, and at other times it comes unbidden. And sometimes there is a little bit of both.

From where I sit, it may seem to me that there has not been much change at USR. But I also realize that my perspective is completely skewed, and that for many of you it may feel like there's been a lot of change. There have been changes to the order of service--the time for all ages, weekly spoken meditation, use of the screen, and more. Changes to staffing--with some new hires in the world of Religious Education and with Donna's departure. Changes in programming with the addition of new adult RE opportunities (and there will be more coming up!) Little changes, like the new table in the Reeb Conference Room. And then Big Changes, like the fact that you have a new minister. I realize that it's easy for me to look around and say nothing drastic has happened, but the reality is that I'm the something drastic. My being here must feel so different from what has come before.

As we move into the springtime, and we look to plan for next year, I hope that you will feel comfortable sharing how these past months have felt, and what you are excited about for the future. Hopefully many of you attended those small group meetings and were able to share some of those thoughts already. If you haven't, I hope you'll come to me or other leaders in the congregation to voice your thoughts.

Change, transformation, isn't easy. We know this. We also know that it is often necessary, and often brings about good things (though certainly not always). We remind ourselves of this multiple times throughout the year. And yet, we often forget it when the moment actually comes for change and we resist. I know it isn't always comfortable, and that sorrow almost always attends change. I am hopeful that we can help each other mourn and also be brave as we move forward through inevitable changes, holding tight to the things that are central to who we are and building together for the future

Best, Rev. Sarah



Reflections

March has been a month filled with family-friendly activities, new Sunday School experiences, and growth opportunities for those young and young at heart. Our youth in the Neighboring Faiths curriculum visited a Hindu Temple to join in the celebrations of their Spring festival and our Coming of Age youth have begun to write their Credo statements that will be shared at their own service on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the younger grades children of all ages have explored topics of justice, interfaith dialogue, and friendship.

In April we anticipate a bright and warm coming of Spring. Please join us for our Annual Easter service on Sunday, **April 1**<sup>st</sup> and our multigenerational Earth Day service on Sunday, **April 22**<sup>nd</sup> in which there will be art, song, and lots of laughter.

Please note that we are looking for teachers for our Fall semester of Sunday School and new members of the CYRE Committee for the new church year. Please email me at <a href="mailto:usr.dre1@gmail.com">usr.dre1@gmail.com</a> if you are interested in either of these opportunities to shape the lives of our children and youth!

Blessings, Rev. Dylan Doyle-Burke

Hello from your youth coordinator,

The youth group is in the middle of working on its next big project, our yearly youth-led worship service. Our service dates will be **April 22** at Paramus and **April 29** at Ridgewood. I hope everyone at both congregations will be able to attend our services and see our teen's creativity on display as they collaborate to express their spiritual beliefs. Our youth should be sure to attend our different planning events over the next month, including our working overnight on **April 6th** at USR, and watch your email for other dates and times too.

Looking back over the past month we had some interesting discussions during our youth-led Sunday meetings, and we had an opportunity to talk about the walkouts and demonstrations at their high schools after the Parkland shooting. We had a parent meeting on March 4th, thanks to our parents, youth, and advisors for attending, and that same weekend 6 of our youth attended the youth con in Summit, NJ.

Youth program activities will be held at USR in April and May. And, as always thanks to our adult advising volunteer for all of their great work this year, and a special thank you to the staff at both congregations for their support in getting the youth calendar organized for the rest of our year. Your support makes this whole program possible.

Thanks, James



Immediately following our Sunday Service on **April 15**, everyone will have the opportunity to participate in a discussion about the USR organizational structure. The discussion will include a brief review how we are currently organized, and then we will talk about what opportunities might exist that could enable us to do a better job pursuing the following goals:

- Operate in a way that better enables us to fulfill our mission and adhere to our values.
- Increase the range and number of opportunities for more people to participate in the life of the congregation.
- Create a place that is more open, is less focused on lines of authority, and where it is easier for new members to become engaged.

The board of trustees has invested a good portion of our time this year studying this subject and we do have some ideas to share. However, we are also very interested in hearing what the congregation thinks about the topic.

I completely recognize that this type of discussion is not for everyone. But for those of you who are interested, we really do want to hear from you. If you can't make it on the 15<sup>th</sup> and would like to provide your input, please contact me and we will share some materials with you that will enable you to do so.

Rob

### STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

### Stoke that Fire of Commitment! The Pledge Drive is on!

The annual pledge drive, which started with a rousing evening at the Fellowship Feast, is now underway! Pledge cards were handed out last Sunday, March 25th. At the service we sang that hymn about the Fire of Commitment, and Rev. Sarah focused on that really appropriate part of our mission statement: "We act together as a beacon for justice and love". If you were not at the service, your card will be in your mail this week. Let's keep that beacon lit! Look for the packet and please send in your pledge right away!

If you prefer, you can enter your pledge online by clicking <u>here.</u> Keep in mind the "Fair Share" formula. Click <u>here</u> to read the "Fair Share" flyer that is included in the packet.

Our Board is working on the Budget for the new fiscal year, which we will vote on at the annual meeting in early June. Please make their job easier (and make your drive chairs happy) by entering your responses before April 15th.

Thank you, Anita DiGiulio and Robert Markowitz Pledge Drive Co-Chairs

# NORTH JERSEY HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL

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Announcing the First Annual North Jersey Human Rights Film Festival, to be held at The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ.

Three showings:

Friday, April 27, 2018 at 7pm

Saturday April 28, 2018 at 1pm and 7pm

\$10 entrance fee per showing or\$25 for the whole weekend (all three showings)

Visit our webpage for updates including film schedule: www.uuridgewood.org/film-festival/ Contact us at usrfilmfestival@gmail.com

### Location:

113 Cottage Place Ridgewood, NJ 07450 Phone 201-444-6225 www.uuridgewood.org Child care available with one week notice. For reservations, contact Dylan Doyle-Burke at usr.dre1@gmail.com



Proud Member of the Ridgewood Film Festival Consortium

We are very grateful to
Avid Technology Inc.
for their generous donation
of a copy of Media Composer
to be awarded to the
Festival's first place winner.



### MINISTRY COUNCIL





**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY** 

USR is looking for a few good men, women and youth to attend and be delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA). GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2018 General Assembly will be **June 20-24** in Kansas City, Missouri. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Kansas City Convention Center.

### **GA Theme: "All Are Called"**

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.

### **Kansas City**

The City of Fountains is practically overflowing with adventure. Whether it's the scent of smoldering BBQ luring you to a plate of ribs, the sweet echo of jazz welcoming an evening of entertainment or the spray of fountains inviting you to kick off your shoes and make a splash, you'll sense inspiration in the air – and find it along every boulevard.

### **Excellent Programming**

GA will offer more than 175 programming selections over the course of five days. Major worships this year will be led by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Rev. Sofia Betancourt. More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

### Financial Aid Available

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to <a href="https://www.nua.org/ga">uua.org/ga</a> to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration). GA is a great place to connect with other Unitarian Universalists from all over the country! For web information about GA, search "UUA General Assembly 2018" or you can contact Martin Lavanhar (our denomination representative). The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood will reimburse our five delegates for the registration fee for General Assembly. Delegates will be responsible for travel, room and food expenses. Contact board member Laura Krag to apply for delegate status.

### MINISTRY COUNCIL

### **Upcoming Services**

April 1st Easter Service "Transformation" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi

Musician: Ron Levy, piano

April 8th "Ethical Dilemma" - Lay-Led Service

Musician: Ron Levy, piano

April 15th "Death and Taxes" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi

**New Member Ceremony** Musician: Ron Levy, piano

April 22nd "Earth Day" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi

This will be a Multigenerational Service.

Musician: Ron Levy, piano

April 29th Youth Group Service - Led by James Forrest

Musician: Ron Levy, piano



# APRIL AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY

# Paintings by **Anne C. Winner**

April 1st - 29th, 2018

### **Opening Reception**

Sunday, April 8th from 2-5pm Come meet the artist!

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 consider supporting local artists – and the USR – by considering a purchase of artwork from Cottage Place Gallery exhibitions!

### **MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL**

### One Book USR

Our next meeting is **April 4th** at 7:30 p.m. in the main floor conference room in REEB. We will be discussing Amor Towles Rules of Civility. It is a novel set in 1930's Manhattan that follows a young woman as her friends and circumstances change. All are welcome.

### First Wednesday Brown Bag Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Luncheon on **April 4th** at 1 p.m. hosted by Anita Young, whose earlier offers in February and March were foiled by winter storms. But three is the charm! Anita will provide dessert and beverages. Please RSVP to let her know you are coming and to get directions if needed.

### Nancy Petrie's 100th Birthday Celebration

Please join us at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood on Sunday, **April 15th**, 4 p.m. to honor Nancy Petrie in celebration of her 100th Birthday! Cake cutting at 5:30 p.m. Please click here to view flyer.

### **Newcomer's Brunch**

Please join us on Sunday, **April 22nd**, 11:30 a.m. for 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. Childcare is available. RSVP by April 18th if you would like to join us.

### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL**

### Plate Collection Thank you - March 11

As the climax to an excellent social justice weekend where we explored Black Lives Matter and Black Mamas Matter, the plate collection was passed for Ancient Song Doula Services and Black Lives Matter Paterson. The congregation generously donated \$1,582.88 to these organizations. They are both very grateful and they thank the congregation for supporting their work.

### Plate Collection - April 8th

The plate collection for **April 8th** will go to Citizen's for Swimming. Please be generous with your offering on April 8<sup>th</sup> as the entire plate collection will go to Citizens!

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### **Gun Violence Protests**

On Saturday, March 24, thousands attended student-led marches protesting gun violence in the U.S. Our Social Responsibilities Council donated to support the March for Our Lives in Hackensack; USR congregants and youth attended the Hackensack march, as well as the march in Newark and New York City.

This month, USR congregants spoke in strong support of resolutions in Ridgewood and Midland Park rejecting the federal Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. These resolutions were passed overwhelmingly, as Ridgewood and Midland Park joined nearly twenty other Bergen County towns adopting these measures.

On March 12, the Gun Safety Action Event: What Can I Do? was held at the USR. This program, cosponsored by Women for Progress, Moms Demand Action, the Brady Campaign, NJ5, and Ridgewood JOLT aimed at informing people about what specific actions can be taken to oppose gun violence and support common sense gun control.

To learn more about gun violence prevention and what our congregation is doing, please see <a href="http://www.uuridgewood.org/2018/02/27/gun-violence-prevention/">http://www.uuridgewood.org/2018/02/27/gun-violence-prevention/</a>. Also, please be aware of the excellent work being done by UU FaithAction NJ, the legislative arm of the UUA in New Jersey (<a href="https://uufaithaction.org/gun-violence-prevention/">https://uufaithaction.org/gun-violence-prevention/</a>).

### **USR's Social Justice Weekend**

The return of our congregation's Social Justice weekend occurred March 9 to 11. Thanks very much to everyone who helped with and attended any of the events (including the Sunday Service). You helped strengthen USR's commitment to Black Lives Matter.

One of the themes of the weekend and the committee's work is the intersectionality of all social justice work. Check out, for example, the link below that was offered at a recent meeting of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee of Ridgewood and Glen Rock which dramatically connects the original motives for the second amendment and slavery. <a href="http://www.robinmorgan.net/blog/hidden-history-second-amendment/">http://www.robinmorgan.net/blog/hidden-history-second-amendment/</a>

Click <u>here</u> for a link to a growing bibliography of books and movies related to racial justice.

### 8th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

New Jersey Abortion Access Fund is hosting its eighth annual **Bowl-A-Thon on Saturday, April 28, 2018.** See flyer on page 12.

The Bowl-a-Thon is a nationwide series of local events that allow community members to raise money to help women pay for abortions they couldn't otherwise afford. Along with the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF), NJAAF invites you to join them for a fun night of bowling, while raising money to make reproductive rights a reality for women who can't afford to pay for their abortion.

Questions? Refer to <u>njaaf.org</u> for additional information, or contact Carol Loscalzo.

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



### Peace & Justice

The Annual Conference on Human Rights was held at the Human Rights Institute at Kean University on March 23. The program included speakers, Koang Doluony, Founder of Omaha Talons; Donya Nasser, 2015-2016 Youth Observer to the United Nations and Sally Bruno, Founder of One World One Love. All the speakers focused on the individual ability of One to make a difference. The plight of migrants and immigrations was the topic of discussion. Koang was born in a small village in South Sudan. When he was 3 yrs. old the family was forced to move and they moved to a migrant camp. They depended heavily on the United Nations for the basic of life. The culture of the people slowly was changing as they became dependent on the United Nations. He said, in their culture, everyone helped everyone and all people have value, it was a collective understanding. He said, "Understand the value to be your best self", " Get out of the stage of being the victim", and "Nobody can do anything to you without some level of your consent."

The second speaker, Donya, is 25 years old and she spoke to the youth at the conference about their own empowerment. She was an Iranian Muslim and the youngest member on the board of Planned Parenthood. She had everyone play the game of "closed fist". She focused on the youth telling them age should not define them. "Leadership is about a journey of learning what you can do for others."

Sally Bruno founder of One World, One Love in New Jersey. This is a group of volunteers who act as a rapid response team for refugees resettling in NJ. They provide immediate assistance, such as setting up apartments to collecting donations, to long term resettlement efforts. They also provide assistance with job placement and facilitating social services, programs and events. They are on the ground doing everything we can to help our new neighbors feel welcomed, safe, respected and supported.

# Citizens for Swimming

### **Spring Time is Citizens For Swimming Time!**

The snow is melting, the bulbs are popping, and Citizens For Swimming is preparing to host 100 children at Graydon Pool in Ridgewood this August. Citizens For Swimming has been hosting children from Paterson's CAMP YDP program for over 50 years. We provide 9 days of swimming and water safety instruction plus lots of fun in the sun to Paterson day campers who have no other access to a pool. We depend on your donations of money, supplies and time to run a successful program. Here's how to give:

**Plate Collection** – Please be generous with your offering on **April 8**<sup>th</sup> at USR. The entire plate collection will go to Citizens!

**Online donation** – Quick, easy, and safe online donations can be made <u>here</u>.

**Volunteer** – Come and meet our amazing swimmers! If you can volunteer 1 hour or more of your time this August please let us know through our <u>website</u> or send an email to <u>C4S.USR@gmail.com</u>. (Great for high schoolers who can get their volunteer hours done before classes start!)

**Supplies** – We need bathing suits in all children's sizes, beach towels, sand toys, small footballs, goggles, and sunscreen. Please drop at USR office or Graydon Pool office or email us (C4S.USR@gmail.com) for a pickup.

**Sponsors** – We are looking for local sponsors for lunch, sporting goods, and/or donations. Do you know a business that could help?

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

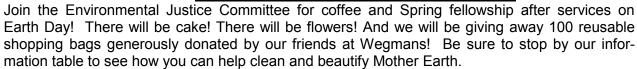


### **Environmental Justice Committee Contributes tips to Columnist**

Did you happen to see Record columnist Bill Ervolino's article on Saturday, March 17, titled "Strategies for Dealing with Plastic Bag Blues"? St Patrick did double green duty that day, as Mr. Ervolino wove a green topic into an action plan to help stem the tide of plastic waste. Several of our committee members were quoted in the article!

To read the column, click here.

## Earth Day, April 22nd Let's Celebrate with a Special Coffee Hour







### **Movie and Discussion**

Join the EJC on Friday, **April 13** for a terrific movie on climate change, Al Gore's **An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power**, followed by a discussion with Harriet Shugarman, the "Climate Mama", climatemama.com. If you missed last summer's commercial release you'll want to see why this was the most talked about environmental film of 2017. Child care upon request. See the attached <u>flyer</u> for details.

### 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. King

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee of Ridgewood and Glen Rock joins with the Bergen County Martin Luther King Birthday Committee and the Bergen County NAACP to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King. A vigil will be held on **April 4** at 6 p.m. at the King Monument in Hackensack. See flyer on page 11. Contact Carolyn Musser or Carol Loscalzo for further information.

# Come Join Us in a Candlelight Vigil To Pay Tribute To Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On the 50th Anniversary of A Life Gone Too Soon, But A Voice that Still Resonates Today!



### *Wednesday April 4, 2018 ~ 6:00pm*



At the Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack River Pathway Hackensack, New Jersey

Sponsored by the Bergen County Martin Luther King Birthday Committee, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee of Ridgewood and Glen Rock and the Bergen County NAACP



Contact <u>201-833-9180</u>



## Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition

### Member Organizations:

Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County Temple Emeth, Teaneck Unitarian Society of Ridgewood Central Unitarian Church, Paramus

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of the Palisades, Englewood

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Teaneck Congregation Agudath Israel, Caldwell

Darul Islah Mosque, Teaneck

Islamic Community Services Group, Boonton

First Friends of NJ and NY, Kearny

The NNJSC, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, provides humanitarian support and advocacy for political asylum seekers and asylees.

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# BENEFIT DINNER

for the Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition

### Keynote Speaker:

### **Evan Robbins**

Founder and CEO of Breaking the Chain Through Education

"Helping Those Who Have Lost Everything to Regain Dignity and Hope"

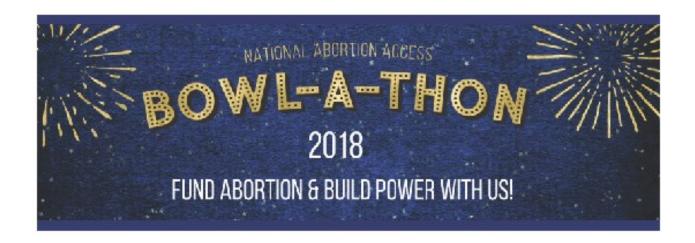
### Entertainment:

Theron Cromer, tenor Ron Levy, pianist

# Sunday, April 15th, 2018 5:30 pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 118 Chadwick Road Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 836-7275

Free Admission
Tax deductible donations are appreciated.



The Bowl-a-thon is a nationwide series of local events that allow community members (you!) to captain your own bowling teams, participate in a national event – and raise money to help women pay for abortions they couldn't otherwise afford.



## **SATURDAY APRIL 28**

CHERRY HILL • HACKENSACK • PISCATAWAY

STRIKE DOWN BARRIERS TO ABORTION FUNDING!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY:

www.njaaf.org

WE FUND ABORTION

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Easter Service— Rev. Sarah Lenzi	2 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	3	4	5	6 6:00 Youth Group Sleepover	7
8 10:00 Service — Lay- Led Service 2:00 Art Reception/ Anderson	9 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustees/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	10	11 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	7:30 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship	7:00 Environ- mental Justice Committee Film/Anderson	14
10:00 Service—Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Town Hall Mtg/ Anderson 11:30 Membership Meeting/Upstairs Mtg Rm 11:30 P&J Mtg/Conf. Rm 4:00 Nancy Petrie's Birthday Celebration/ Anderson	16 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	17	18 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	19 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/Anderson	20 7:00 Zen Retreat/RE Classroom	21 8:30 Zen Retreat/ RE
22 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Newcomer's Brunch/Conf. Rm 12:00 Adult RE/ Fellowship Rm	23 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	24	25 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog 6:30 Faith Talks at the Steel Wheel	26 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	27 7:00 USR Film Festival/ Anderson	28 1:00 USR Film Festival/Anderson 7:00 USR Film Festival/Anderson
29 10:00 Service—Youth Service - James For- rest.	30 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship					

Editor/Membership Administrator: Ann Pareti 201-444-6225

usr.membership1@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi, Minister 201-444-6225

usr.minister@gmail.com

Rev. Dylan Doyle-Burke Director of Family Ministries 201-444-6225

usr.dre1@gmail.com

James Forrest, Youth Group Adv. 480-754-9039

cucusryouthgroup@gmail.com

Ron Levy, Music Director 201-444-6225

levynotes@aol.com

Chandrika Chowdhry, Secretary 201-444-6225

usr.secretary@gmail.com

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

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.

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113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



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