



April 2019

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

### CIRCLE OF LIFE

It is with great sadness, we announce the death of member, Diane Kolins. Diane was a member of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood for 25 years.

**Save the Date: May 11 Memorial Service For Bob Demarest.** Please join in celebrating the life of Bob Demarest on Saturday, May 11 from 1-5 PM at The Joe Jefferson Club, 29 East Saddle River Road, Saddle River, NJ 07458. [Click here](#) for more information.



“WE PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE”

Jacques Cousteau



The Environmental Justice Committee and the Art Committee are proud to present a members' art exhibit in Anderson throughout the month of April celebrating the awe and joy of nature.

As we look at these wonderful pieces of art we can experience a connection to the preciousness of our natural world. Art has a way of touching us far differently than the facts and figures that bombard us today. It can evoke new feelings and emotions, spark different thinking and maybe even spur us to action. It's our ardent hope this exhibit challenges you to a new awareness of our human responsibility to safeguard the interdependent web of existence that we all share.

As the great undersea explorer and passionate conservationist Jacques Cousteau said “we protect what we love” and what better and more pleasurable way to heed that advice than to be led by the artist's eye to love and protect the wonder of the world around us.

***Please join us on Sunday, April 14th at 2:00-5:00 pm for the artists' reception and bring the family. We'll have a Kids' Coloring Corner and refreshments.***

# STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

## From the Stewardship Team

The Pledge Drive is on! You should have received your pledge card in the mail by now. Please consider your support carefully and mail your card back to the Society by **April 10**, or pledge on-line by **April 10**.

If you missed the letters from President Sally Lewis and from Rev. Sarah Lenzi that were published recently, here are links to these documents: Click [here](#) for Sally's letter and [here](#) for Rev. Sarah's letter.

Pledge Drive chairs and members of the Board of Trustees are available at coffee hour to answer your questions. Please stop by to chat and to pick up or deposit a "USR Buck" in our Treasure Chest.

Your Pledge Drive Chairs: Anita DiGiulio and Robert Markowitz

**CARE COMMIT CONTRIBUTE**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A "CARE COMMIT" MEMBER?

Care Commit is a "pledge" program in which members of the Society commit to a certain level of financial support. This is not a one-time donation, but a commitment to support the Society's mission and programs over time. This is an important part of the Society's financial health and helps us plan for the future. The Society is a non-profit organization and we rely on the generosity of our members to support our work.

**2019 PLEDGE DRIVE TOWER OF BUCKS**

Amount	Number of Buckets
480,000	1
440,000	1
400,000	1
360,000	1
320,000	1
280,000	1
240,000	1
200,000	1
160,000	1
120,000	1
80,000	1
40,000	1
0	1

**Together we can shape the future.**

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

### Combined Brunch/UU Class

Please join Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi and Ann Pareti for our combined Newcomer's Brunch and Unitarian Universalist class on Sunday, **April 14**, 11:30 a.m. in the Reeb conference room. Enjoy a delicious brunch while Rev. Sarah teaches you about UU theology and history. We will also discuss the path to membership. Childcare is available. Please RSVP to Ann at [usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com). by Wednesday, April 10th. Thank you!

### First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon

Please join us at the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **April 3, 2019** to be hosted by Dale Muto at 1 p.m. at her home. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please RSVP to let her know that you are coming and let her give you directions if needed. Come and meet newcomers and old timers. Hope to see you there.

## SAFE CONGREGATION RESPONSE TEAM

### Safe Congregation Response Team News

Wally Griffith has resigned from the Safe Congregation Response Team. He was an active member of the team for several years. We thank him for his dedication and work. We are pleased to announce that Gina Damasco has agreed to join the SCRT. We look forward to working with her. Members of SCRT: Rev. Sarah Lenzi, Jeanne Nametz, Sally Lewis, Kathy Smolen, Carol Loscalzo.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Plate Collection application deadline – May 8, 2019

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 Wednesday, **May 8**. 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 or available at the SRC table. 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.

### April Shared Plate Collection

Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, BVMI, is celebrating it's 10-year anniversary of providing free primary and preventive health care to low-income working Bergen Co. residents who do not have insurance or the means to pay for care. Volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, dieticians and other professional and support staff provide most of the care to over 1500 individuals in the County. Despite the fact that Bergen County is one of the most prosperous in NJ, 6.9 percent of residents live below the poverty level and over 10 percent do not have health insurance. BVMI fills a critical need in the County and the volume of patients has increased significantly in recent years. Thank you for your generosity!



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Racial Justice Awards 2019

The Racial Justice Committee is partnering with the YWCA Bergen County in sponsoring the Racial Justice Awards 2019 event on Wednesday, April 17 at USR in Anderson Auditorium. The event is always inspiring. Please join us. See flyer on page 8.

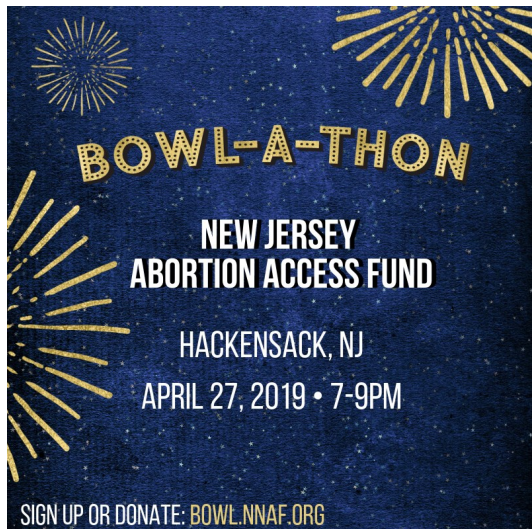


### Important Early Alert

Rev. Sarah's service on Sunday, **May 5th**, will focus on issues of racism and oppression using the book "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo. Services will be followed by a brief coffee hour with discussion starting immediately after. We will have pizza for people staying for the discussion. Childcare will be available.

Please plan to 1) come to the service, 2) eat, and 3) stay for the discussion. AND, please try to read the book. It has been very favorably reviewed: is #2 on the NYTimes non-fiction best seller list and is being discussed now by other NJ Unitarian congregations. It is in 22 libraries in the BCCLS system.

### 2019 NJAAF Bowl-A-Thon Announced!



The Reproductive Justice Committee invites you to join the NJAAF for its ninth annual Bowl-A-Thon on Saturday, **April 27, 2019** in Hackensack!

The Bowl-A-Thon is a nationwide series of local events that allow community members to raise money to help women pay for safe and legal 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.

Reproductive Justice members will be forming a team. You can join the team, start another team or make a donation to the team. Questions? Refer to [njaaf.org](http://njaaf.org) for additional information, or contact Carol Loscalzo. Thank you for your support!

<https://bowl.nnaf.org/campaign/new-jersey-abortion-access-fund-hackensack/c220243>

### Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition Fundraiser

All are welcome to attend the Annual Dinner Fundraiser for the Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition on April 28th. Admission is free but a tax-deductible donation to help support the coalition is requested. See flyer on page 9.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



### CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Please join the Environmental Justice Committee for coffee hour in a celebration of Earth Day on Sunday, April 21. We'll have a special treat and lots of information about how we can lighten our footprints as we tread on Mother Earth. This year's focus will be on alternative energy sources and a display of some earth friendly swaps for everyday use.



*Camino de Santiago, photo courtesy of Marilyn Maney*

The Environmental Justice Committee would like to make you aware of local opportunities to recycle Styrofoam packing material (no food containers or packing peanuts, please):

April 13: Wyckoff Styrofoam Drive  
 April 28: Oakland Styrofoam Drive  
 May 18: Ridgewood Styrofoam Drive, 10 a.m. Graydon Parking Lot  
 June 8: Leonia Styrofoam Drive  
 June 15: Oradell Styrofoam Drive

More details will be available at Facebook/Sustainable Bergen County Hub and Facebook/GreenRidgewood, or contact Jan Bottcher.

# SAVE THE DATE

THURS, APRIL 4TH, 2019

## DREAM KEEPERS

LOCATION:

TEANECK MUNICIPAL BUILDING

MARCHING TO

TEANECK LIBRARY

6:30 - 9 PM

TOGETHER WE REMEMBER...  
UNITED WE MOVE FORWARD



The Peace and Justice Committee of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
Presents...

# JUST THE FACTS

## Navigating the NEW Digital Landscape

Saturday, April 6, 2019



- Can you tell the difference between fact and fiction?
- How does digital information come to us?
- What does the new digital landscape mean for truth and democracy?

In this two hour hands-on workshop, Library Media Specialist, Lois Parker-Hennion will help you answer these questions and more! Please bring a device (cell phone, tablet, ipad, or laptop). Light refreshments will be served.

**Who:** Lois Parker-Hennion is a library media specialist and has been teaching digital literacy to high school students for 23 years. She is a member of the Peace & Justice Committee and serves on the Advisory Board for Teaching Tolerance.

**What:** News Literacy/Digital Literacy workshop

**When:** 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 6th

**Where:** The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, 113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ

**Why:** In order to participate effectively in our democracy, we need to be able to successfully navigate the news that is coming at us.

**How:** Presentation will include hands-on activities and discussion. Please RSVP using [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/just-the-facts-navigating-the-new-digital-landscape-tickets-56854839355) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/just-the-facts-navigating-the-new-digital-landscape-tickets-56854839355>

**Childcare available with 2 weeks advance notice: Please contact: [usr.dre1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.dre1@gmail.com)**

# SAVE THE DATE

YWCA Bergen County's 6th Annual

# RACIAL JUSTICE

AWARDS  
2019

Our annual Racial Justice Awards event distinguishes the trailblazers who strive to make a difference in our community, working to eliminate racism and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people.

Wednesday, April 17th

6:00 pm - 8:00pm

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ

Donation: \$40 per person

Food & beverages included

Thank you our partner:

**RACIAL  
JUSTICE**  
COMMITTEE

THE UNITARIAN  
SOCIETY OF  
RIDGEWOOD

RSVP today at [ywca\\_rjawards19.eventbrite.com](http://ywca_rjawards19.eventbrite.com)

For more information visit [www.ywcabergencounty.org](http://www.ywcabergencounty.org) or contact Jessica at 201-881-1755

YWCA Bergen County  
214 State Street  
Suite 207  
Hackensack, NJ

[www.ywcabergencounty.org](http://www.ywcabergencounty.org)



eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

Bergen County

**YWCA IS ON A MISSION**





## 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

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 asylum seekers  
and asylees.

© 2019 - All rights reserved.

# BENEFIT DINNER

for the Northern New Jersey  
Sanctuary Coalition

Keynote Speaker:

## Edafe Okporo

Community Advocate, Founder of the Pont, LLC

“Building a Bridge for  
Newcomers in Our Society”

Entertainment:

Kristen Plumley, soprano

Theron Cromer, tenor

Ron Levy, pianist

## Sunday, April 28th, 2019 5:30 pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

118 Chadwick Road

Teaneck, NJ 07666

(201) 836-7275

Free Admission

Tax deductible donations are appreciated.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:00 BOT Meet- ing/Conf. Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	2 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	3	4 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	5	6 10:00 Just the Facts/Fellowship
7 <b>10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi</b>  11:30 Adult RE/ Anderson	8 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	9 7:00 CYRE Mtg/ Conf. Rm	10 3:00 Member- ship Mtg/Conf. Rm  7:00 Nominating Comm Mtg/ Conf. Rm	11 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	12 6:30 Night Out with Rev. Sarah (Off Premises)	13
14 <b>10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi</b>  11:30 Adult RE/ Anderson  11:30 Brunch/UU Class/ Conf. Rm  11:30 RE Envisioning/ RE Classroom  11:45 P&J Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm  2:00 Art Reception/ Anderson	15 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	16 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	17 6:00 Racial Jus- tice Comm/ YWCA/ Anderson	18 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	19	20
21 <b>10:00 Easter Sunday Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi</b>	22 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	23	24 7:30 One Book USR	25 6:00 Passover Seder/ Anderson	26	27
28 <b>10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi</b>  11:30 Preventing Child Abuse/RE Classroom  11:30 Environmental Justice Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm	29 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	30				

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

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

Jeanne Nametz, Director of Religious Education 201-444-6225  
usr.dre1@gmail.com

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

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

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

Website [www.uuridgewood.org](http://www.uuridgewood.org)

#### **Board of Trustees**

Sally Lewis, President	Mike Azzara, Trustee
Eric Fuhrman, Vice President	Laura Krag, Trustee
Peter Duran, Treasurer	Jackie Nadler, Trustee
Bernie Josefsberg, Secretary	Owen Uscher, Trustee
	Dawn Walter, Trustee

## **Unitarian Society of Ridgewood**

### **Mission Statement**

Growing in mind and spirit,

We act together as a beacon for justice and love,  
Transforming self and world. Adopted May 17, 2009

### **Invitation to Participate**

Welcome! For over a hundred years this Society has been a place where free-thinking, broad-minded persons have come to participate in a vibrant, liberal religious community. In fulfillment of our current congregational mission we create a safe and loving environment that supports personal growth and provides ways for each individual to make a difference in the larger community.

We offer a stimulating Sunday service, an excellent religious education program for children and youth, and many educational, spiritual and social activities for adults. Every Sunday our Social Responsibilities Council has a table set up during Social Hour with information about social justice and charitable opportunities.

### **Anti-Racist Congregation**

This Society is an [anti-racist congregation](#) committed to reflecting this commitment in the life and culture of the entire organization. Adopted May, 2002.

### **Living the Welcoming**

We have been a Welcoming Congregation since 1998, supporting the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people.

### **Safe Congregation**

This Society is a Safe Congregation where practices and procedures serve to ensure all members, friends, adults, children and youth are treated with respect and protected from harassment and abuse.

#### **IN THIS ISSUE**

Page 1	<b>Ministry Council</b> Circle of Life Cottage Place Gallery
Page 2	<b>Stewardship Council</b> Budget Committee
Page 3	<b>Membership Council</b> Brunch/UU Class Wednesday Brown-Bag Lunch
Page 3	<b>Safe Congregation Team</b> Response Team News
Page 3-9	<b>Social Responsibilities Council</b> April Plate Collection Racial Justice Awards NJAAF Bowl-A-Thon Environmental Justice News Dream Keepers March Just the Facts Event NNJSC Benefit Dinner
Page 10	CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Page 11	STAFF/BOARD LISTING INDEX



113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



**NOW accepting articles for April 24th deadline**  
@ [usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com)