



August 2019

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

### Bring a Friend Sunday

Please plan on bringing a friend to our Sunday Service on **October 13, 2019**. LifeWay Research did a study on inviting a friend to church and it was revealed that most people are still open to a invitation to a church from a friend. They asked more than 50,000 people over the last 10 years why they came to church, and between 75 and 90 percent of respondents said, "I began attending because someone invited me." So...let's all do our part on October 13th and invite a friend!!!!

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COUNCIL

### Offertory Collection Applications

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 Monday, September 9. 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.

### Volunteer Opportunity

Did you know that our congregation is a part of the Family Promise network of congregations who provide support for homeless families at local shelters?

Our UU commitment for this year is Monday and Tuesday of Labor Day week (September 2 and 3). We start at 5 p.m and provide dinner (we will need cooks) and people to sleep over. There is also time to socialize with the adults and play with the children. This is a great opportunity for families and children to volunteer together. The shelter is located at the United Methodist Church in Ridgewood. Contact Betsy Longendorfer to volunteer or to learn more.

### Save The Date:

On Friday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m. the Racial Justice Committee will be hosting "Living Legacy: An interfaith discussion". Four residents of NYC, 2 who are Unitarian Universalists including 2 members of All Souls Unitarian Church will speak on "Memorials to Slavery, Lynching and The Holocaust: Paths to Reconciliation". The four went to Montgomery Alabama to see the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The program is about their journey and their linking slavery and lynching to The Holocaust. Please join us for the presentation and the discussion to follow. See the flyer in this newsletter. Questions: Ask Carolyn Musser or Carol Loscalzo.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL**

### **August 2019 Plate Collection for Table to Table**

Table to Table is Northeast New Jersey's first and only food rescue program. Their mission is to redistribute free of charge fresh, wholesome food which would otherwise be wasted. By operating a local fleet of refrigerated trucks they're on call to pick-up fresh food from supermarkets, caterers, corporate cafeterias, and restaurants. This food is then delivered free of charge to over 170 recipient non-profit agencies such as soup kitchens, safe houses for abused women and children, homeless shelters, veterans and elder care programs. Table to Table's fundraising and management expenses don't exceed 2.5%, which has earned it Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating for 8 years in a row.

### **Thank You from SHARE**

SHARE would like to thank the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood's endowment fund for its generous grant of \$2500 to help replenish the Ritter Fund. The Ritter Fund was established to honor two special USR congregants and leaders, June and Jack Ritter, who helped organize the shared housing concept in Ridgewood. The Ritter Fund helps seniors who reside in one of the SHARE houses who, through circumstances not of their making, can no longer meet the cost of living expenses.

SHARE has long and deep connections to our congregation and is one of the few affordable housing opportunities for independent seniors in our area. Each resident has their own room but shares provided meals and has the opportunity to socialize and participate in activities and companionship with other people. Many USR members volunteer at SHARE and more are always welcome.

If you have questions about SHARE please contact Don Campolo or Marilyn Maney.



### **C4S Thanks You!**

Thank you to all who gave so generously to Citizens For Swimming in the June plate collection. We will put these dollars to immediate use from August 6-22 providing buses, Graydon admission, suits, towels, and toys to our Camp YDP kids. It's not too late to volunteer! Please join us at the pool for a day or an hour. Or even just pop over to Graydon to say hi. Thank you again!

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Protect Abortion Workers and Patients

News from UU Faith Action NJ concerning a bill signed into law to protect abortion clinic workers and patients, sex abuse and stalking victims.

**TRENTON, NJ (July 19, 2019)** – Earlier today, Governor Murphy signed legislation, S1761, to expand New Jersey's Address Confidentiality Program to include victims of sexual assault and stalking, and reproductive health care workers and patients. The expanded program will thwart abusers and harassers from finding individuals at home, work, and school. The bill unanimously passed the Senate by a 37-0-0 vote and the Assembly by a 75-0-0 vote. Now law, this bill was hailed by advocates as a necessary measure to protect victims of abuse and reproductive health care patients and workers amidst a toxic political landscape and national attacks on abortion clinics and providers.

"UU Faith Action NJ thanks Governor Murphy for signing into law the Address Confidentiality bill," **said Rev. Rob Gregson, Executive Director of Unitarian Universalist FaithAction New Jersey.** "As people of faith working for a more just and caring world, we are grateful to the Governor and Legislature for helping to empower reproductive health care workers including, doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers who work so hard to guarantee people the right to access the health care they need, often under very difficult circumstances. Allowing staff as well as patients the ability to protect their identity in the face of today's local and national anti-abortion campaign helps to give patients and clinic workers a level of safety and security so they can continue to give and receive the best reproductive health care possible."

The law, modeled after California's "Safe at Home" program, helps those who fear for their safety keep their home address confidential. Participants and survivors in the program are assigned a substitute address by government agencies in lieu of their actual residential or mailing address. The participant's actual address remains confidential and available only to government program staff and law enforcement.

Due to anti-abortion rhetoric amplified by the Trump administration and the alarming number of state laws restricting or banning abortion care, anti-abortion extremists are feeling emboldened to harass and intimidate clinic staff and clients.

"As independent abortion providers who have served as a trusted resource for New Jersey families since Roe v. Wade, we extend our gratitude to Governor Murphy for signing these common-sense protections for our health care workers and community members into law," **said Roxanne Sutocky, Director of Community Engagement for Cherry Hill Women's Center and steering committee member of the Right to Thrive NJ coalition.** "Cherry Hill Women's Center provides indispensable health care services, and we should not be compromised by those who continue to target abortion providers and perpetuate acts of harassment, intimidation, and violence with increasing frequency nationwide. Health care workers and those accessing vital reproductive health care services, including abortion care, should not have to be subjected to stalking or office invasions. We applaud this important legislation, that assures that when we need to make criminal reports of these actions, law enforcement is able to protect our identity as victims of anti-abortion extremists."

Abortion clinics nationwide faced a record number of picketing and trespassing incidents in 2018. Clinics and staff also faced increased rates of obstruction, vandalism, and online hate speech, according to the latest National Abortion Federation Violence and Disruption report. In the past year alone, New Jersey abortion clinics have reported four invasions.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

"Patient and staff safety is our top priority at Planned Parenthood," **said Kaitlyn Wojtowicz, Legislative and Political Director of Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey and steering committee member of the Right to Thrive NJ coalition.** "We commend the sponsors of this bill and Governor Murphy for helping to ensure that all patients can access the reproductive health care they need – and that clinicians can provide that care – while feeling safe and supported."

"Today, New Jersey has added an extra layer of protection for survivors of sexual violence by ensuring they have access to the Address Confidentiality Program," **said Patricia Teffenhart, executive director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault.** "The FBI recognizes sexual assault as the second most violent crime, the traumatic impact of which lasts a lifetime. New Jersey has a growing portfolio of policies designed to address the needs of victims/survivors in the aftermath of victimization, and expanding access to the existing Address Confidentiality Program is the next logical step in our continued pursuit of trauma-informed, survivor-centered policies that support those impacted by this heinous crime. We offer our appreciation and congratulations to the allies and stakeholders who worked to make this a reality."

The current Address Confidentiality Program serves approximately 270 adults and over 400 children, according to the latest data from FY2016. The program is administered in the Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families.

### Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition

The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition is looking for a host family or individual with at least one Spanish speaker, for PR, a 21-year-old asylum seeker from Mexico, reared in extreme poverty, who was horrendously abused and quite severely traumatized by an older brother he began living with at age 13. He has a lawyer who has helped him apply for asylum. He has recently received working papers and NY Medicaid, was released from detention in the Bergen County jail in August 2018, then lived in a shelter, where he was again traumatized, and is now in temporary housing at the Seafarer's Inn in Union Square, NYC. He is desperately in need of housing and wants to work. He speaks no English but wants to learn and has education only through the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of secondary school, and little work experience.

JDN is a 32-year old asylum seeker from Rawanda, who was a leader of an LGBTQ organization. He has a university education and is proficient in English and French. In Rawanda, he was employed at the Water and Sanitation Corporation, where he delegated water apportioning. Prior to that, he worked as a plumber. Because of his position as a leader for an LGBTQ advocacy group, he faced persistent persecution at home. After arrival in the U.S., he was detained in the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility, but after 2 months was released on a bond of \$10,000, paid for by the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund. He would like to live in the NY/NJ area and his attorney, who is affiliated with the NY Immigrant Family Unity Project, is soon to submit his asylum application. Once he locates stable housing in the area, his case can be moved to immigration court in NYC.

If you think you might be interested in providing housing for either of these individuals, please contact Elizabeth Ames. Thank you!



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Solitary/Isolated Confinement Bill signed into Law!

Our membership with UU Faith Action NJ has made an impact in our state. A few years ago our congregation members were provided with the opportunity to sit in a solitary confinement cell and experience this isolation. We received the following information from UU Faith Action and should celebrate the work that has been done to create this change. When you sign letters and make phone calls, you become a part of the change and make the difference for justice. When we work together, this is what we can accomplish! Kudos to all of you! We hope you will feel the pride we do in being able to work together for social justice.

After Many Long Years of Struggle, NJ Finally Moves Away from Solitary/Isolated Confinement for People in Our Prisons.

WE DID IT!! Isolated/Solitary Confinement as we know it in NJ and across the U.S. has been fundamentally changed for the better. *Real human lives will be directly affected.* Many, many people will now have an increased chance of returning to their families and neighborhoods without the additional trauma of isolated confinement added to their list of struggles to overcome.



**It feels very, very good to be able to write those words.**

At long last, one of the most progressive and far reaching reforms *in the nation* of our far-too-punitive penal system was signed into law yesterday, July 11th, by Gov. Murphy.

Isolated/solitary confinement (*a replica cell built by folks at Central Unitarian Paramus is shown on the left*), while not banned outright, now comes with safeguards and oversight that will--with our continued monitoring and advocacy--end the worst kinds of abuse and outright torture too long practiced in the jails and prisons of NJ.

**This is a special love letter.** It is for all of you who have worked so long and so hard over many years (since at least 2013/2014 during the Christie administration) to help make this historic moment possible. (*Like those from FUUFHC and UUCP attending a solitary confinement hearing in renton in the picture below.*)

A special shout out to the chair of our Criminal Justice Task Force, **Susan MacDonnell** (UU Princeton) and

"special UU envoy" to NJ CAIC, **Tricia Idrobo** (Beacon UU Summit) as well as to my predecessor in this post, **Rev. Craig Hirshberg**. Without their willingness to write many emails, and attend many rallies and meetings, UUs across NJ would never have been such an integral part of this important victory.

*"Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead."* (Nelson Mandela)



May this recent milestone be just one of many such beacons of light to come.

In faith, with love, for justice,

Susan MacDonnell and Tricia Idrobo, Criminal Justice Task Force and Rev. Rob Gregson, UUFANJ

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### **Public Comment Requested concerning New Asylum Policy**

Enforcement of Asylum Rule will virtually end Asylum at the border: SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENT!\*

**The Department of Homeland Security has proposed an interim rule, effective Tuesday, July 16, 2019, that would bar migrants coming to the U.S. southern border from seeking Asylum unless they applied for Asylum in a third country and were denied.**

The [new interim rule](#) is deliberately being used and enforced through an eligibility and procedural modification. The implications of enforcing this rule will have long standing consequences, set the precedent that it is illegal to apply for asylum and further separate immigrants from the dignity they deserve. Read more [here](#).

In order for migrants at the border to apply for asylum, they must:

1. Have applied for asylum in any country they passed through during their migration and were denied asylum status.  
OR
2. Be a victim of human trafficking.  
OR
3. Have traveled through a country that did not sign one of the major refugee treaties.

**This interim rule leaves little opportunity for migrants to receive asylum status, forcing them to return to the conditions they are fleeing from. We cannot allow the continual criminalization of immigrants seeking refuge in the United States.**

The ACLU has deemed this rule illegal and has since filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration. Currently, the Department of Homeland Security is accepting public comment. Click [here](#) to submit your comment!

### **Sample Script:**

*Dear Sir/Madam:*

*I am writing on behalf of [ORGANIZATION NAME]/as a resident of [CITY NAME] in response to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Notice of Interim Rule Asylum Eligibility and Procedural Modifications, effective Tuesday, July 16, 2019.*

*I/We strongly oppose the proposed changes to the Asylum Eligibility and Procedural Modifications, which, as we know from our years of experience [in immigration law and training immigration professionals on complex legal matters] [as an advocate for the immigrant community] will cause uncertainty, inconsistency, and chaos for the thousands of migrants who take the dangerous journey to the U.S. This stands in stark contrast to our country's commitment to liberty, the pursuit of happiness and facilitating the inclusion and integration of immigrants into the United States.*

*[Insert description of your organization and why this is particularly urgent to you, plus the expertise you have on issues raised, OR the work you do as an advocate.]*

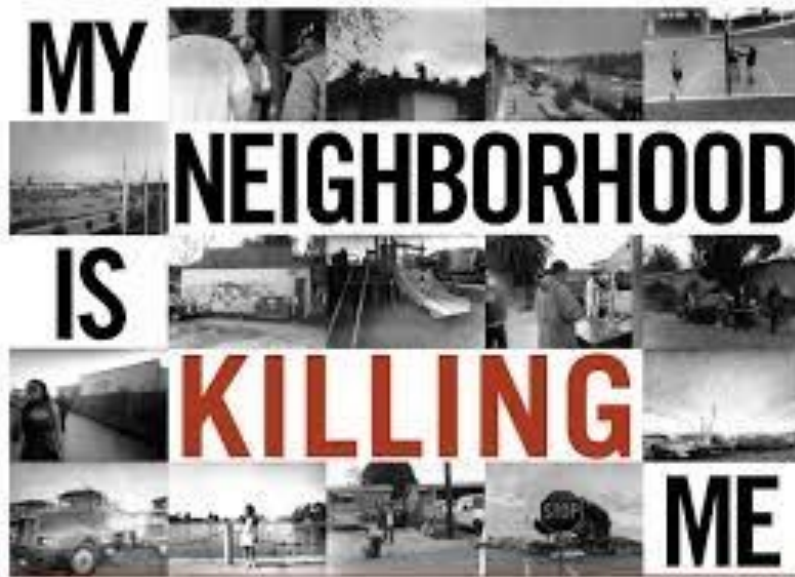
*The interim rule would send the clear message to our immigrant community and migrants from all over the world that they are not welcome in the United States. The rule would also have a disproportionately negative impact on women and people of color, preventing them from securing lawful immigration status. Though the impact on families will undoubtedly be devastating, our comments focus on the impact the interim rule would have on those seeking refuge, the practice of immigration law, and fairness and justice within our immigration system.*

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

The Environmental and Racial Justice Committees present

### **“DISRUPTING ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITY”**

*a social justice weekend event on Oct 4, 5 and 6, 2019*



**Friday** night movie: MANN v FORD, based on the Ramapough Tribe's legal fight with Ford Motor company over the contamination of Ringwood, NJ.

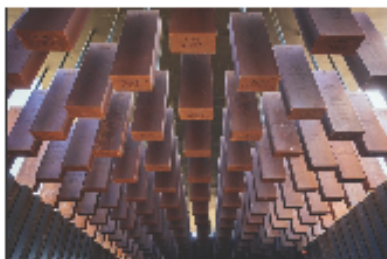
**Saturday:** Light supper and panel discussion on environmental racism featuring Jeff Tittel, Chair, New Jersey Sierra Club  
Chief Vincent Mann, Turtle Clan, Ramapough Lenape Nation,  
Amy Goldsmith, State Director New Jersey Clean Water Action.

**Sunday:** address by Rev Sarah Lenzi

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ  
Living Legacy – Interfaith Discussion

Friday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7:30 pm  
113 Cottage Pl, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

## Memorials to Slavery, Lynching and The Holocaust: Paths to Reconciliation



Montgomery



Berlin

Memorials create emotional spaces to help us acknowledge and understand the abuses of slavery, lynching and genocide. They provide opportunities to inform the present and motivation to ensure peace and justice for all.

“Slavery in America was violent, traumatizing and tragic. It lasted over two centuries, creating a wound that has not healed. After emancipation, Black people were re-enslaved through Jim Crow laws. Disenfranchised and unprotected by the rule of law, there was great suffering, but nothing maintained racial inequality more than lynching. Thousands of black people were drowned, burned, shot and hanged. Millions fled the American South..... Only by acknowledging the truth of our past can we have hope for our future. That is the purpose of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.”

**Bryan Stevenson**, Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative, MacArthur Fellow.

### The Montgomery Four



**Linda Rousseau, MS (Left)** is a retired educator, leader of the Social Justice programs at All Souls Unitarian Church, NY, and prison reform advocate.

**Adine Usher, EdD (M Left)** is a member of the Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation in White Plains, NY, and a consultant/advocate for students with physical disabilities.

**Tosia McCormick, MS (M Right)** is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in New York City.

**Robert Dottin, PhD (Right)** is a Professor of Biology at Hunter College of the City University of New York and a member of All Souls Unitarian Church, NY.

“We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. “

**Elie Wiesel**, Nobel Laureate.

“All I can do is make this borrowed time matter”

**Yisorel Goldstein**, Rabbi, Poway Synagogue



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <b>10:00 Service - Diana West, Guest Speaker</b>	5 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship	6	7	8	9	10
11 <b>10:00 Service - Rev. Edward Frost, Guest Speaker</b>	12 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship	13 7:00 Covenant Group/Conf. Rm	14	15	16	17
18 <b>10:00 Service - Benjamin Van Dyne, Guest Speaker</b>	19 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:00 CYRE Mtg/ Conf. Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship	20	21	22 7:00 Pledge Drive Mtg/Conf. Rm  7:00 RE Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	23	24
25 <b>10:00 Service - Rev. Allen Wells, Guest Speaker</b>	26 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship	27	28	29	30	31

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

#### **Board of Trustees**

Sally Lewis, President	Rose Castillo-Leon, Trustee
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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 August 24th deadline**  
@ [usr.membership1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.membership1@gmail.com)