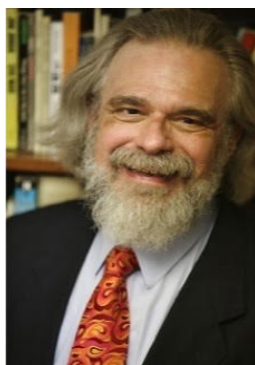
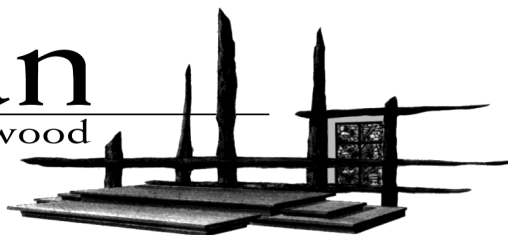


# Unitarian

## Society of Ridgewood



### From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

The holiday season this year is a season where foreboding takes a place alongside hope. It is not that other holiday seasons have not been tinged with fear. Many have. But it is a time when the unknown looms large, when we in the United States are facing the prospect of a new national administration unlike any in the lifetimes of even the eldest among us.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, I heard a lecture by Karen King, Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard. Dr. King is a church historian, who specializes in the history of early Christianity. She reminded her listeners that many of the texts of the Christian canon are ascribed to disciples of Jesus who had died before the texts were recorded in writing. Some texts reflect traditions that can be traced to the apostles; others do not. But just as important as the authorship, the debates of such matters as sin, salvation, and the nature of Jesus and God continued into the fourth century before the church codified the winners' positions in the creeds and the New Testament canon. During the second and third centuries of the Common Era, some of the debaters were accused, in effect, of theological forgery, that is, of intentionally misrepresenting the received scriptural texts and the meanings of the early disciples and even early Church Fathers. The doctrines judged to be heretical were wrong not because of honest intellectual error, but because of an intent to misrepresent or deceive.

The rhetoric of forgery was a rhetoric that accused the opponent of theological forgery and evil intent. The rhetoric of forgery critiques not just the ideas of the opponent, but his character. The result is that many ancient texts were permanently lost or unknown until the discovery and translation have given us a much fuller picture of early Christianity than the New Testament gives.

While Dr. King's lecture was written in advance, there was no way of ignoring its relevance to the recently completed campaign for president. She noted this herself. As in the debates within early Christianity (which we now know to have been a diverse, even pluralistic movement inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus and his first followers, male and female), arguments about character (some with little or no basis in fact) often supplanted arguments about substance. Misrepresentation took the place of honest presentation of different perspectives.

While neither major party campaign deserves a gold star for honesty in the 2016 presidential election, the winning campaign (in my judgment) engaged most vigorously in the rhetoric of forgery.

Two questions are unavoidable: One is, how do we return truth tempered by honest disagreements to the center of our discourse? The other is this, how do we sustain the governmental structures and civil society that make democracy possible when the new governing regime is hostile to these?

These are not easy questions to answer. But we can find answers, as hidden as they may be at this moment.

I speak of hope at times like these. (Not optimism, hope.) Hope is not the assumption that good will ultimately prevail. Rather, it is the attitude that we can and must act so that good will ultimately prevail.

Many of the ideas and practices that were shut down by the church councils in the fourth century CE, such as the totally human nature of Jesus, God's ultimately universal mercy, female aspects of deity, and the locus of authority in the people rather than the church hierarchy, survived and reappeared many times between the fourth and twentieth centuries, when they were again validated by the documents found at Nag Hammadi.

As citizens today, we must work on a shorter time frame than the centuries during which the ancient texts were hidden. We must challenge the rhetoric of forgery and the untruths it promotes right now. We must keep alive the faith in human possibility that has sustained freedom and openness through the centuries.

Foreboding in this season is an honest response to reality. But the words of Theodore Roethke hold truth: "In a dark time, the eye begins to see." With an attitude of hope and eyes wide open, we can sustain the achievements of a free and open society through the dark times ahead.

Rev Dr TJ

Minister's direct office line: 201-345-9587; Cell: 646-515-4729; Email: [usr.minister@gmail.com](mailto:usr.minister@gmail.com)



## Reflections

Somehow, we have arrived squarely back in the holiday season. It happens every year, and yet somehow it always comes as a surprise! Four years ago around this time, I was preparing to lead the Christmas Eve service at the congregation I was serving solo, as my supervising minister was on sabbatical. In my planning, I came across this “mantra for living more abundantly” tucked into a Christmas Eve prayer by the Rev. Forrest Church. Rev. Church delivered this Christmas Eve Prayer (you can read it in its entirety [here](#)) a little more than halfway through his battle with esophageal cancer, which he knew would kill him. I’ve pulled it out and tried to live it every holiday season since then. Here it is:

*Let us want what we have—*

*Praying for health, if we are blessed with health,*

*For friendship, if we are blessed with friends,*

*For family, if we are blessed with family,*

*For work, if we are blessed with tasks that await our doing,*

*And if our lives are dark, may we remember to want nothing more than the loving*

*Affection of those whose hearts are broken by our pain,*

*Let us do what we can—*

*Not dream impossible dreams or climb every mountain,*

*But dream one possible dream and climb one splendid mountain,*

*That our life may be blessed with attainable meaning.*

*And Let us be who we are—*

*Embrace our God-given nature and talents.*

*Answer the call that is ours, not another’s,*

*Thereby enhancing our little world and the greater world we share.*

*That is my Christmas prayer:*

*Want what you have;*

*Do what you can;*

*Be who you are.*

*Call it thoughtful wishing.*

*All we have to do is put our heart in it.*

*And there’s one more bonus.*

*Unlike wishful thinking, thoughtful wishes always come true.*

Whether or not the language of prayer or God-given anything speaks to you, I think the call to want what you have, do what you can, and be who you are applies to anyone.

For many of us, much like any season of our lives, this season blends joy and pain. It can seem more stark - the pain sharper, the joy more exuberant - than at other times. I recently shared with the youth a letter that my dear colleague, Starr Austin, wrote to Unitarian Universalist youth, some of whom are in deep pain as they realize that much of their country seems to hate who they are, whether they are LGBTQI, of Jewish ancestry, people of color, or just different in some way. I summarized the letter for the kids thusly: *We love you. We’re here for you. Come talk when you need to.* So, dear congregants: in addition to wanting what we have, doing what we can, and being who we are - may we love each other, may we be here for each other, and may we talk when we need to. And while we might need to hold each other through pain, in this season and any other, let us help each other make room for joy as well.

With love,  
Johanna

## FROM THE BOARD



Historically, our members have not been comfortable while talking about money. I think that we have made some progress over the past 5 or 10 years, but it generally remains to be, for many, an awkward topic of discussion. In an effort to open the dialogue, please consider the following:

The USR operates with an annual budget of approximately **\$600,000**.

**\$384,000** or **64%** of the budget goes to pay for the salaries, benefits and payroll taxes of the staff. We are proud to be a Fair Compensation Congregation, which will certainly benefit us during the ministerial search process.

**\$168,000** or **28%** of the budget goes to pay for the upkeep of our facilities, to pay for office expenses, to pay the mortgage, and to pay denominational expenses.

The remaining **\$48,000** pays for all of our other expenses, including the RE program, our music program, and all of the committee expenses.

**We are a self-supporting organization.** Not one dime of our annual income comes from any outside source of funding. While we do receive services from the Unitarian Universalist Association, we certainly do not receive any financial support from the UUA.

Our three largest sources of income are:

**The Annual Budget Drive** - Approx. \$400,000 this past year

**Building Rentals** – Approx. \$80,000

**The Service Auction** – Approx. \$35,000

This year's **Service Auction** is coming up fast and in this critical year we can't afford to fall short of our fundraising goal. **Please go on line or speak to Dawn Walter or LuAnn Markowitz soon to provide your creative and generous offering:** [CLICK HERE](#)

I completely understand and respect that a person's income, their accumulated wealth, or how much someone donates to the USR is a very personal matter. That said, I do believe that there are quite a few of our members who could be more generous when it comes time to make their annual financial commitment to the USR. The good news is that we know from the results of the congregational survey that our congregation is in fact quite affluent -- so the money that we need to balance our budget and to pursue our mission is available.

If you are uncertain about what is an appropriate level of giving for your circumstances then please consider making use of the **UUA Fair Share Contribution Guide**, which can be found on the UUA website and will be made available to you by the Annual Budget Drive Committee later this winter.

In the mean time, please start thinking in terms of contributing at least 2-3% of your "Adjusted Annual Income." If you have any questions about the **Contribution Guide** or how to calculate your Adjusted Annual Income please feel free to talk to me, Peter Duran, Eileen Jarrett or Bob Shoemaker.

Thanks for your continued support of the USR and being engaged in the life of the congregation.

Regards,  
Rob

## STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



### **USR's Society Auction — Saturday, January 28, 2017**

USR's "New and Improved" Society Auction will take place on Saturday, **January 28, 2017**. This year's Society Auction will focus on fellowship, food, and fun experiences. We have many changes in store... This year, all offerings will be auctioned live! There will be no Silent Auction. We'll start with a social hour, where you can catch up with friends and purchase tickets for the Revamped Raffles. Next comes the Live Auction which, as always, will focus on experiences — dinners, picnics, hikes, tours, shows, lessons, services, etc. Afterwards, enjoy dessert and coffee while you pay your bill (by check or Paypal) and collect your raffle prizes. **We need your Society Auction offerings, so please click [here](#) to make your donation online.** The deadline for offers is December 31st. And new this year, this is a **HARD** deadline. There will be no late additions and no addendum.

## SAFE CONGREGATION RESPONSE TEAM



The Safe Congregation Response Team is offering Cardiopulmonary Pulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator (CPR/AED) training on **Saturday, January 7, 2017** (snow date: Jan. 14) from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. It will include basic CPR for adults, children and infants as well as AED training. The team is pleased to offer this excellent training free of charge for USR members and Friends. To register, email Chandrika Chowdhry at: [usr.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:usr.secretary@gmail.com) by the **January 4th deadline**.

Only 32% of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) victims receive bystander CPR and only 2% are treated with AEDs. When SCA victims are treated quickly (CPR & AED use), survival rates increase to 38%. For every minute without CPR and defibrillation, the SCA victim's chance of survival decreases by 7 - 10%. These statistics are stated in the website of the Adam Greenlee Foundation. Adam is a 13-year old Westport, CT boy who was a victim of SCA when he was 11. Fortunately for him the incident occurred in the middle school gym which was next to the nurse's office. Two nurses responded, began CPR immediately and shocked the heart with the AED. Adam was revived, treated for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and is doing very well.

At USR we are fortunate to have 2 AEDs available. It is important to have as many people as possible trained in CPR/AED. Hopefully you will never need to use this skill; however, we will be extremely grateful to know that you are one of many at USR who can contribute in a meaningful way if there is an emergency.



# SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

## **An Update from the USR Ministerial Search Committee**

### **The Search Committee has:**

- Surveyed the congregation
- Listened to member's ideas at cottage meetings
- Attended the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop
- Prepared the Congregational Record for prospective ministers
- Prepared the Ministerial Search Packet for prospective ministers
- Presented information about the survey and cottage meetings at a Town Hall
- Received reports from Negotiating Team
- Plans to meet with the Board to discuss the findings and to explore ways in which our congregation can be a welcoming space for a new minister
- Made Ministerial Profile and Congregational profile available to members

### **Upcoming Tasks:**

- Notify prospective ministers and exchange packets with those who are interested
- Narrow to three or four candidates
- Observe pre-candidates in neutral pulpits
- Make offer
- Organize Candidating Week

### **Now it is your turn:**

- Ask yourself, "What is my responsibility in creating a welcoming environment?"
- Ask your loved ones, "Can we 'take turns' receiving what we yearn for and honoring others who have different needs?"
- Ask your groups or your committees, "How do we best prepare our membership, ourselves, and each other for this change?"

## **MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL**

### **First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon**

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **December 7, 2016** to be hosted by Nancy Petrie at 1 p.m. at her home at spacious Share. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please R.S.V.P. to let her know you are coming and to let her give you directions, if needed. All are welcome.



### **Save the Date**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017**

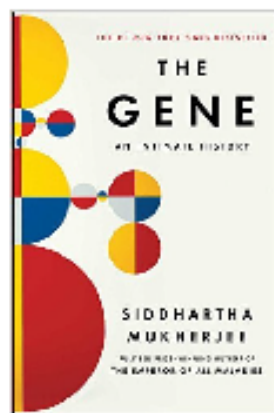
**7:30 p.m. at The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood**

**Reeb House**

Join us for a member-led discussion of Siddhartha Mukherjee's *The Gene: An Intimate History*. This is a magnificent history of the gene and a response to the defining question of the future: What becomes of being human when we learn to "read" and "write" our own genetic information? Mukherjee, the Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*, is considered one of the best writers in the field today for elucidating scientific ideas for general readers. We should know about genes and how they are revolutionizing every field of science. As that is happening there are ethical issues that we are being called upon to make. Our Book Club member Elaine Winshell is highly qualified to lead this discussion, so you will not want to miss this meeting, even if you do not have time to read the whole book.



Elaine holds a Ph.D in microbiology from Columbia University. Her concentration for the Ph.D was the mechanisms of DNA mutation and repair in bacteria. She remained at the College of Physicians and Surgeons for an additional 5 years in the division of Infectious Diseases and studied the mechanisms whereby bacteria become resistant to antibiotics. She then went to Ramapo College of NJ where she taught genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry and especially the interaction of those areas with social issues. She retired after 27 years at the college as the Dean of the School of Science and co-founded the Institute of New Dimensions - a continuing education program for older learners. She has taught courses that relate science to social issues such as —Population and its limits, Eugenics, Alternative and Complementary Medicine, Emerging Infectious Diseases and a discussion of the Science Tuesday articles.



**The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
Reeb House  
113 Cottage Place  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
201-444-6225**

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

### Upcoming Services

- December 4th      **Great Expectations - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**  
In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we nourish all kinds of expectations, some trivial and some great. Christianity calls the four weeks leading to Christmas "Advent", a season of waiting. Since Hanukkah begins at sundown on December 24th — yes, Christmas Eve — the Message will reflect on the great expectations connected with these two very different holidays. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; Raif Hyseni, accordion and Merita Halili, soprano - music of the Balkins
- December 11th      **The Heresy of Hope - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**  
The words "heresy" and "heretic" derive from a Greek verb meaning "to choose". In orthodoxy, heresy is seen as a choice not to conform to the truth. Hope is the attitude that something better is possible in spite of the way things are. Hope is the product not of ease but of adversity and it is an attitude not of waiting but of action. For me, the heresy of hope is a choice not to give in to the (not so great) expectations that the way things are now is the way they must be.  
Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; Donald Batchelder, trumpet; Don is the principal trumpet of the New York City Opera.
- December 18th      **Happy Holidays! A Multigenerational Solstice Service - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**  
Saying "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" is not part of the fictional war against Christmas. It is an affirmation of the reality of the religious and cultural pluralism in which we live. Numerous religions and cultures have holidays that mark the winter solstice. We will celebrate several of these in this multigenerational service. Musicians: Ron Levy and Jean Strickholm, piano 4-hands; a tribute to Steve Anderson, long-time Music Director at the Paramus CUC, and co-founder of the acclaimed All Seasons Chamber Players, who passed away on November 25th.
- December 24th      **Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 p.m. - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson, Johanna Seale and Ron Levy**  
A service of readings, carols and reflection in celebration of Christmas. A brass concert from 6:15 to 6:45 precedes the service led by Rev. Johnson, Ms. Seale and Mr. Levy. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; a brass quintet concert (6:15 to 6:45), the Society Singers and guest soloists Katy Wong, harp and Nicole Karrs, mezzo-soprano.
- December 25th      **The Glow of New Life - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson - 11 a.m. Service**  
A service of reflection led by the interim parish minister. Musician: Ron Levy, piano and traditional holiday music by "mystery carolers."

### Pastoral Associates

Your Pastoral Associates is busy at work with the loss of members and more health issues reported to us than we've had in many years. We have been active with hospital visits, providing services to families and individuals in crisis and helping Rev. Tony serve our congregation.

We cannot solve every problem, but in many cases between the Caring Committee and the Pastoral Associates we can help you get through some tough times. Don't hesitate to call either Ann Pareti in the church office or me if you need us. **We can only help if you ask.**

Martin Lavanhar

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

Photo taken at the youth con

Starting from the left:

Adam Hartman, Delphine Aibel, Juliet Ben-  
net-Levy, Scott Buksbaum, James Forrest,  
Matt Lavinder, Luke Corpina and  
Max Solomon-Frye in front.

Hello from your youth coordinator,

Since the time of last writing the youth group has been busy with a variety of activities both near and far. We made a trip into the city and met with the youth group at the Unitarian Church at All Souls and saw their youth-led worship service. We sent seven of our teens to the first youth con of the year in



Summit, NJ, and later that week we had our second monthly movie night of the year at CUC. And since the election our youth group has adapted its focus to an environment of support, worship, and introspection as we head into the future in our communities and in our country.

The month of December will bring our next youth con, an anti-racism working con, as well as our annual Christmas cookie decorating Olympics and an overnight event on December 28 over the holiday break. We'll also have our regular movie/game night on December 9th at USR. And beginning December 4th our Sunday meetings will be switching to Ridgewood each week.

I'd also like to thank our adult advisors in this year's youth group. Our volunteers and staff have done a lot of excellent work in the last few months to get our year off to a great start. Thank you for the work you do!

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



The Racial Justice Committee hosted post-election discussions on Sunday, November 13th. We felt it was important to follow through on our pledge to **"Join The Discussion Here"**. In the aftermath of the election results, many felt the need to process and discuss. People wanted to ask: What happened? How will this affect the issues that UUs care about? And most important of all – what might we do about it? Thank you to all who came and shared your thoughts and feelings. We want to remind members and friends that USR has an active Social Responsibilities Council. All are involved in advocacy work and many direct service activities. Please consider joining one of our committees: Education Justice (Sally Lewis, Marilyn Maney co-chairs); Environmental Justice Action Liaison (Katherine Hyde, chair); Homelessness & Hunger (Ira Mendelsberg, chair) Living the Welcoming – LGBTQ issues (Anita Young, chair); Peace & Justice (Anita Young, chair); Racial Justice (Carolyn Musser, Carol Loscalzo, co-chairs) Reproductive Justice (Susanne Fuhrman and Carol Loscalzo co-chairs). Call the office

for more information at 201-444-6225.

If you have ideas for a discussion group, suggestions for a book to read or film to show that covers the issues of the active committees, please reach out to the committees. They all want to hear from you. Thank you.



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### **SHARE Senior Housing Plate Collection — December 11th**

With much gratitude and appreciation, I want to thank you all for your continued support of SHARE, Inc. This non-profit 501© organization provides housing to 28 senior citizens in two shared Ridgewood homes. This year has been a challenge with higher than normal vacancies. Some of the residents became too frail and had to move into other facilities. I guess that has to be expected because some of our residents are well in their 80's and 90's! Most are continuing to thrive and they'd tell you that living at SHARE is the best thing around. All residents pay their own rent, but we need financial help now to ensure the facilities are in the best possible shape. Due to the age of both homes, numerous maintenance projects have been put off until funding is available. Your generous gifts will provide some of the funds we need to tackle these projects. If you are unable to be at services on December 11th, please send a check directly to SHARE at 104 Cottage Place. Otherwise, for the plate collection, make your check out to USR with SHARE in the memo line. Thank you.

Georgetta Walsh — SHARE Advisory Board for Charitable Giving

### **Christmas Eve Plate Collection**

The traditional Christmas Eve plate collection will benefit C.A.M.P. YDP, a preschool and after-school program, 10 miles from Ridgewood. This non-profit is on Paterson's Northside, which has a history of poverty, disinvestment, flooding and high crime. Preschoolers and students attending C.A.M.P. come from struggling families. Their parents are attending school or are employed and want safe, affordable care for their children. Your generous gifts will help to buy tables, chairs, book shelves to serve the growing population of deserving children. *Make checks out to USR and put C.A.M.P. in the memo.*



### **Save the Date**

#### **Dr. Martin Luther King Day events - January 16, 2017**

**For USR Families** - MLK CAMP/USR Family Day: USR children (preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade), juniors, youth, and parents join children from Paterson's C.A.M.P. YDP at USR for a day of fun. Scheduled from 9:45 to 1:45. This is an annual event that is enjoyed by CAMP and USR children. Contact Eric Fuhrman for further information.

**For USR adults not involved in MLK CAMP/USR Family Day:** Join others in the interfaith community of Ridgewood/Glen Rock for the 35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee at the United Methodist Church, Ridgewood at 10 a.m. The speaker at the interfaith service will be Iman Zaid Shakir, a Muslim American scholar and co-founder of [Zaytuna College](#) in [Berkeley, California](#). After the service, there will be the annual march and Justice Rally at Van Nest Square. A celebratory lunch will follow. Refer to USR January newsletter for details. Questions? Contact Carolyn Musser or Carol Loscalzo.

### **A Coming Together in Peace and in Hope on Behalf of Gun Violence Victims**

Please join us **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** for a vigil to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary School and the victims of the Pulse Nightclub Massacre this year, and the death of more than 30,000 Americans lost to gun violence in the past year. Where: Central Unitarian Church, 156 Forest Ave., Paramus. We gather in wisdom of the heart that knows that it is only by coming together that we will develop the strength to change our nation and save others from gun violence. Sponsored by CUC and BC Brady Chapter and NCJW Bergen County Section.

# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

## UU Outreach Auction



A hearty thank you to all of you who helped to make the UU Outreach Auction the most successful yet! In one night we raised over \$80,000 that will be shared among six charities:

Center for Food Action  
Center for Hope and Safety  
Children's Aid and Family Services  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Family Promise of Bergen County  
Holley Childcare and Development Center

A fun night of bidding was led by our own auctioneer extraordinaire, Jeff Cagan. USR members were generous in donating items for the auction. In addition there were 60 baskets that were part of the Tricky Tray, and several were donated by USR members. And the Baking Brigade shared delicious desserts, so nobody went hungry. USR members and friends who attended said it was an inspiring evening.

If you were not able to participate and want to make a contribution to one of the charities, you can do so at [uuoutreachauction.org/get-involved/](http://uuoutreachauction.org/get-involved/), using the "after-the-fact absentee bid form".

### **Special thanks to:**

Mary Byron  
Jeff & Marcy Cagan  
Anita DiGiulio & Ira Mendelsberg  
Jessica Downey  
Abby Dunnigan  
Betsy Longendorfer & Steve Jackson  
Eileen Jarrett  
Laura & Carl Krag  
LuAnn & Robert Markowitz

Elyse Pleasic  
Suzanne Samuels  
Brietta Savoie  
Inge & David Spungen  
Tae Terumoto & Bernie Josefsberg  
Dawn & Charlie Walter  
Rob & Suzanne Willis

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

# REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

As a result of the election, abortion access is threatened on the federal and state levels. This will make it very difficult for all women, but especially for women of color and economically challenged women. Many have asked Reproductive Justice Committee members what groups are most effective in doing advocacy work to protect abortion access as well as all aspects of reproductive health. The list below was created in response to the requests. Lists are available on the SRC table. Questions? Contact Susanne Fuhrman or Carol Loscalzo, co-chairs. Thank you.

### **Advocacy Resources for Reproductive Justice**

Since the presidential election, people have been asking what strong advocacy organizations will defend reproductive health. Below is the list (not exhaustive) that the Reproductive Justice Committee has identified.

- **Center for Reproductive Rights** - For more than 20 years, the Center for Reproductive Rights has used the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right that all governments are legally obligated to protect, respect, and fulfill. CRC's groundbreaking cases before national courts, UN committees, and regional human rights bodies have expanded access to reproductive healthcare, including birth control, safe abortion, prenatal and obstetric care, and unbiased information. <http://www.reproductiverights.org> 917-637-3600
- **NARAL Pro Choice America** - An advocacy group made up of pro-choice women and men across the U.S. with the mission of protecting and expanding reproductive freedom. This is done by lobbying Congress to convince your elected representatives to support your right to choose; connecting what happens in Congress or in the states to how your ability to make private decisions, (like choosing legal abortion) is affected; and working with our state affiliates to advance ideas that are good for women's freedom. <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org> 202-973-3000
- **SisterSong** - SisterSong is a Southern based, national membership organization; its purpose is to build an effective network of individuals and organizations to improve institutional policies and systems that impact the reproductive lives of marginalized communities. SisterSong's mission is to strengthen and amplify the collective voices of indigenous women and women of color to achieve reproductive justice by eradicating reproductive oppression and securing human rights. <http://www.sistersong.net> 404-756-2680.
- **National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health** - The work of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) focuses on three main program areas: Abortion Access and Affordability, Sexual and Reproductive Health Equity and Immigrant Women's Health and Rights. <http://latinainstitute.org/en> 212-422-2553
- **ReWire** - Rewire is a nonprofit daily online publication that seeks to foster public knowledge and enlightenment through high-quality evidence-based news, analysis, commentary, and investigative reporting on issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice. <http://www.rewire.news>

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

- **Planned Parenthood Action Fund** - Planned Parenthood is a trusted health care provider, an informed educator, a passionate advocate, and a global partner helping similar organizations around the world. Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide. <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/>
  
- **Abortion Care Network** - Founded in 2008, the Abortion Care Network (ACN) is the national association for independent community-based, abortion care providers and their allies. Together we work to ensure the rights of all people to experience respectful, dignified abortion care. Independent abortion providers care for the majority of people seeking abortion care in the U.S. – often serving individuals and families in the most rural parts of our nation and those with the least financial resources. <https://www.abortioncarenetwork.org/>
  
- **National Network of Abortion Funds** -The National Network Of Abortion Funds builds power with members to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access by centering people who have abortions and organizing at the intersections of racial, economic and reproductive justice. <https://abortionfunds.org>
  
- **Physicians for Reproductive Health** - Physicians for Reproductive Health unites the medical community and concerned supporters. Together, we work to improve access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion, especially to meet the health care needs of economically disadvantaged patients. <http://prh.org/about/> 646-366-1890
  
- **UU Women's Foundation** - UUWF is a continental membership organization that advances justice for women and promotes their spiritual growth. It is an independent non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation and one of only three associate member organizations of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Inheritor of a proud tradition, UUWF was formed in 1963 through consolidation of the Association of Universalist Women (founded in 1869 and believed to be the first organization of lay church women in the United States) and the Alliance of Unitarian Women (1890). 414-750-4404 <http://www.uuwf@uuwf.org>
  
- **Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice** - RCRC is the *only* national interfaith organization dedicated to reproductive choices, health, rights and justice. For more than 40 years, we have been educating, organizing and advocating wherever faith, policy and our reproductive lives intersect. <http://rcrc.org/> 201-628-7700
  
- **Religious Institute** – The Religious Institute is a multi-faith organization dedicated to advocating for sexual health, education and justice in faith communities and society. More than 6,400 religious professionals representing 70 faith traditions are part of the RI network. <http://religiousinstitute.org/> 203-222-0555

November, 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 SRC Meeting/Conf. Rm	2	3
4 <b>10:00 Service</b> 11:30 Membership Mtg/Conference Rm 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	5 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustees Mtg/Conf. Rm. 7:00 Sunday Service Meeting/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm	6 10:30 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm 7:30 Education Justice/Conference Rm	7 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm	8	9 1:00 LIFFT Mtg/Fellowship Rm	10
11 <b>10:00 Service</b> 11:30 Reproductive Justice/Conference Rm 11:45 Connections/Youth Rm 12:30 Youth Group/RE Rm	12 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm	13 10:30 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm 7:00 CYRE Meeting/Youth Rm	14 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	15	16 7:30 Parent's Night Out/RE Rm	17
18 8:30 Annual Budget Mtg/Conf. Rm <b>10:00 Service</b> 11:30 P&J Mtg/Conf. Rm 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	19 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm	20 10:30 Staff Mtg/Conf. Rm 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	21 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm	22 7:30 USR Choir/Anderson	23 1:00 LIFFT/Fellowship Rm	24 <b>7:00 Xmas Eve Service/Anderson</b>
25 <b>11:00 Xmas Service</b> 11:45 Connections/Youth Rm 12:30 Youth Group/Youth Rm	26 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship Rm	27	28 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writer's Group/Conf. Rm	29	30	31

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#### Board of Trustees

Rob Willis, President	Holly Nolan, Trustee
Kevin Smith, Vice President	Laura Krag, Trustee
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#### IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1	Interim Minister's Mailbox
Page 2	Reflections
Page 3	BOARD OF TRUSTEES Article from Rob Willis
Page 4	STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL Society Auction SAFE CONG. RESPONSE TEAM CPR/AED
Page 5	SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS
Page 6	MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL One Book USR
Page 7-8	MINISTRY COUNCIL Upcoming Services Pastoral Associates CYRE News
Page 9-12	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES Plate Collections Vigil for Gun Violence Victims UU Outreach Auction Thank You Reproductive Justice
Page 13	CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Page 14	STAFF/BOARD LISTING INDEX

## 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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**NOW accepting articles for December 24th deadline**  
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com