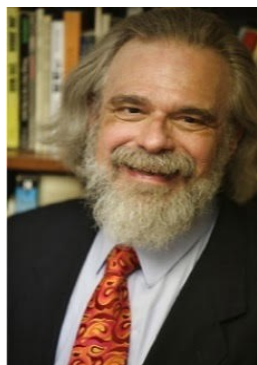
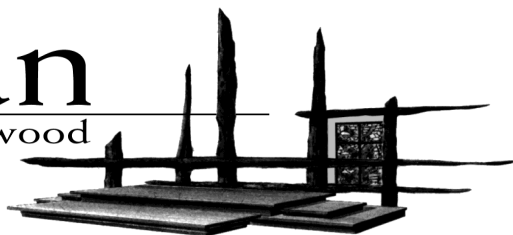


# Unitarian

## Society of Ridgewood



**From the Interim  
Minister's Mailbox**

At the start of 2017, I want to be hopeful. This takes some effort, since not only in the United States but also in other western nations there is reactionary tendency in electoral politics and widespread if not majority attitudes. People who feel threatened by these tendencies have spoken with me and I have read the newspaper reports on the increase of hate crimes, especially hate crimes targeting Muslims.

I have several times spoken at services on hope as an attitude and action grounded in reality. Hope is not optimism, which is easy. Hope can be hard. That's why I spoke on December 11<sup>th</sup> of *The Heresy of Hope*. I said in part:

How do you and I become heretics of hope?

First, remember: Hope is a matter of looking to the future; it is rooted in dreams (for the future); it has the expectation that something good can – or will – happen. Hope happens in the present, and the present may be difficult. The difficulties may be personal.

Second, remember (in the words of Katherine Paterson): “Hope is not a feeling; it is something you do.” You and I must dig deep to understand our dreams and make real hope(s) out of them. This will take work. It may be difficult. Hope is like anything else. It takes practice. There are many ways to understand the substance of your hope: analysis, prayer, meditation, conversation, study, singing, dancing – all aspects of the action of hope: the statement or steps that make hope real.

This is what will occupy us for much of 2017: exercising the heresy of hope, making hope real through practice.

I find encouragement to hope in my conversations with members of the Society and others. Those who have spoken to me of their fears have also spoken of what we must do in this reactionary time. Not only are their plans for protest in the making, but also plans for building the solidarity that hope demands.

I also find encouragement in history. In his book *Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections)*, historian Stephen Prothero describes how the philosophically and socially liberal position triumphed over the conservative in five culture wars in the U.S., beginning in the early days of the republic. Each liberal triumph was not an easy climb of onward and upward forever, but a long struggle where the conservative position had its seemingly greatest visibility and victories (including electoral triumphs at the state and national levels) not that long before it was decisively defeated. (I will say more about this on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, when I speak of *Choice and Choices*.)

Finally, I find hope in the tenacity and vitality of liberal religious congregations, such as the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. Even in the most repressive moments in history these have been – and will continue to be – free spaces where hope is made real by the modeling of life in a free and open society, free spaces where individuals and families can find encouragement and joy even in difficult times. 2017 will be a year of forward movement for the Society as it seeks its next settled minister. That itself is the work of hope.

I remind you of the words of Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

I wish for you joy and hope in 2017.

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)

Happy New Year! As we enter the New Year, we will also be launching some new religious education programs. During the month of January, the children will be learning about diversity in children's literature, as inspired by 10-year-old Marley Dias's [1000 Black Girl Books](#) initiative. I am excited for these workshops, and also excited to share our findings with you during our February 6 RE Celebration Service - don't miss it!



## Reflections

On February 12, we will return to our regular curriculum with a new set of teachers, which means more opportunities to volunteer with our wonderful children! Traditionally, parents of children in the RE program have served as RE teachers. While this is true in many congregations, it's not always ideal for a variety of reasons:

- Congregants without children or with grown children miss out on the opportunity to get to know the kids in our congregation and participate in the vital ministry of religious education.
- Parents who teach year after year rarely get to attend services, and often feel disconnected from the rest of the congregation.
- Kids don't get the opportunity to know other congregants.
- Just because someone is a parent doesn't mean they are comfortable with or good at teaching! Other congregants who may be gifted at or enjoy teaching are sometimes overlooked, often because they are unknown to me or others recruiting our teachers.

This fall, my 6th-7th grade teaching team was Marshall Katzman and Marilyn Maney, neither of whom have children in the RE program. They made a great team, and even learned something in the process - here is what they had to say about teaching:

*It had been almost 20 years since my youngest child completed Coming of Age, so I was nervous when asked to teach RE. I hadn't attended a Unitarian church as a child. My wife took care of the religious education duty when our children were young. I didn't sign "The Book" until three years ago. What did I know? Not much. But let me tell you that Johanna Seale made it possible. I received a step-by-step lesson plan each Wednesday. The supplies were ready for me on Sunday. I was permitted to add a few personal touches to the curriculum. And the kids were great. Some were easy. Some challenged me. All of them were wonderful. In the end, I learned a lot.*

Marshall Katzman

*When Johanna tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I would like to teach RE this past Fall I thought, Moi? I haven't done that in years, not since my own kids were in RE. But the course, "You the Digital Creator", sounded intriguing, the age group (6-7th grade) interesting and the concept of teaching for only one "semester" doable. So there I was the next Sunday with the intriguing, interesting and doable - in real time. Not only were those words fulfilled but I learned something new each week through both a wonderful curriculum and your lively and intelligent children, while at the same time refreshing and deepening my own UU values. If you haven't tried teaching RE in a while you might be surprised at how organized, streamlined and supported it is - no fumbling here, our RE Director is right behind you to guide and ensure success.*

Marilyn Maney

The New Year is a great time to try new things, and helping out in the religious education program, or forming a mentoring relationship with a child or youth in our congregation, is a great new thing to try. Please contact me if you are interested, [usr.dre1@gmail.com](mailto:usr.dre1@gmail.com) or 207-409-6192.

In faith,  
Johanna

## FROM THE BOARD



During this past month the Board met with the Ministerial Search Committee to discuss the importance of preparing ourselves to welcome and partner with our new minister.

The results of the Search Committee survey revealed what we collectively value, and the personal attributes that we hope to find in our new minister. Some of the descriptive words that were most repeated by those who took the survey included:

Intellectual, Inspiring, Humorous, Personal, Spiritual, Humanist,  
Leader, Mature, Experienced, Caring, Respectful, Smart, Ability, Social

During the Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop that took place this past Fall we spent most of the time thinking about and discussing what we want from our new minister and what “type” of person we would prefer to call. Then the facilitator turned the table on us and asked, “What are you prepared to give?”

We have been advised that the hallmark of a strong and healthy ministry is more about patience, respect, and a give and take relationship between the congregation and the minister, rather than finding a person (who doesn’t exist) that meets the expectations of every member of the congregation. We will talk more about this topic during the coming months. In the meantime, we encourage you to consider the importance of having an open mind about what “type” of person we will call next May, and be prepared to do your part to make the ministry work once he or she arrives.

Best,  
Rob

## 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.

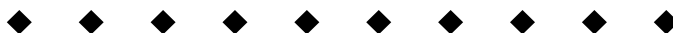
At USR we are fortunate to have 2 AEDs available. It is important to have as many people as possible trained in CPR/AED. Hopefully you will never need to use this skill; however, we will be extremely grateful to know that you are one of many at USR who can contribute in a meaningful way if there is an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

## 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.**



### **Planned Giving**

The Planned Giving Committee would like to announce that we are once again accepting applications for grants. Due to a very generous donation last year, the amount of grant dollars has risen. This year, the amount available is \$10,000! As a reminder, the purpose of these dollars is to help support your worthy causes. In the past we have underwritten scholarships for a needy student, helped a family looking for asylum, funded a program for CAMP, and supported women's choice organizations, among many others.

Applications are available at the main office and may be turned back in to the office or emailed directly to Jeff Cagan. The deadline for all applications is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please direct any questions to Jeff Cagan (chair). In addition, we can also help guide you if you have any questions about charitable trusts and wills for your Planned Giving goals.



# SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

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

**Congregants have asked about the Survey results.** Click [here](#) to review the summary.

### **Upcoming Tasks:**

- Notify prospective ministers and exchange packets
- Narrow to three or four candidates
- Observe pre-candidates in a neutral pulpit
- 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 **January 4, 2017** to be hosted by Dorothy Neff, at 1 p.m. at her home. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please R.S.V.P. at to let her know that you are coming and to let her give you directions if needed. All are welcome.

### **USR Book Club**

Join us for a member-led discussion of Siddhartha Mukherjee's *The Gene: An Intimate History* on **January 11th**, 7:30 p.m. in the Reeb House. 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.

### **Welcome to the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood**

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome the following new members to the USR since September 2016: Charlotte and Brandon Baldassari, Beth Helfst, Krishni De Thabrew, Steve Brigham, Laura and Owen Uscher, Valerie Kowkabany and Elisabeth Trump. We are so happy that you've joined us! Please make sure you say hello to our new members!

# MINISTRY COUNCIL

## Upcoming Services

January 1st

### **"Poetry by the Fireside" - led by Gerti Schoen and Julie McMurray**

Bring your favorite poem or a piece of prose to the Poetry by The Fire service on January 1st at 11am (NOT 10 am) in memory of our friend Peter Levy. Refreshments will be served. Musicians: This service, dedicated to Peter Levy, features original settings of three Shakespeare sonnets by composer Matt Baier, for soprano, flute, violin and guitar.

January 8th

### **"Comrades in Skepticism and Faith" - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**

Unitarian Universalists – Unitarians, especially – identify as skeptics of received truth. We do not easily accept what others say -- especially in religion. Yet, we are also people of faith in two ways. The first way is that we hold fast to and trust a way of understanding the world that may be empirical but nonetheless validates belief(s) by which we can live. The second is that we live our beliefs; we put intellectual constructs into practice. When we put them into practice they vivify our existence. We are, therefore, comrades in skepticism and in faith. This service begins with a Time for All Ages. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano, with guest pianist Sofiya Doroshenko. Ten-year-old Sofiya is a student of Mr. Levy, and is originally from the Ukraine.

January 15th

### **"Liberal Theology and Radical Action: Honoring the Path of Dr. King" - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**

Much is made of the fact that Martin Luther King, Jr. worked within the context of the Black Church tradition. King challenged two components of that tradition: Biblical literalism and quietism regarding justice issues. The truth is, King was a theological liberal and a social/political radical.

Please join in honoring the path of Dr. King by attending the Martin Luther King Day service at the Ridgewood United Methodist Church on Monday at 10 AM, when the main speaker will be Imam Zaid Shakir, US Air Force veteran, counselor to the late Muhammad Ali, and co-founder of Zaytuna College, where he teaches law, theology and political science. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano and Andrew Darling, counter-tenor.

January 22nd

### **"Choice and Choices" - Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson**

This, the second full day of the Trump administration, is also the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*. A woman's right to choose is one of several areas of progress of the past half-century that are likely threatened by the new regime. How shall we protect human and civil rights? Stephen Prothero's book *Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections)* encourages some confidence in the arc of the moral universe, but not an easy confidence that we will win any particular victory. Hence, a Message about choice and choices. Musicians: Ron Levy and guest musicians. The musical selections include Terry Riley's 1964 composition "In C," an aleatory piece in which each musician has individual choice over which musical phrases they play, thus determining the piece's ultimate content and shape.

January 29th

### **"Everybody Wins" - James Forrest, Youth Programs Coordinator**

Our young people are worthy human beings who deserve to be respected and cherished. These ideals are reinforced in their communities and institutions. In an age where all competitors are awarded participation trophies, what does our world teach us about how to fail? Where are our teens taught how to lose? In a time in our lives, and in our country's history, where we may not always come out on top, this service will explore how we are supposed to stay motivated and move into the future as UUs when we're not the winner. The service is written and planned by members of the combined CUC/USR Youth Group.

## CIRCLE OF LIFE

We send our heart-felt condolences to members, Doris and Peter Griffin, for the loss of their son, Peter.

Our good wishes are with Chandrika Chowdhry as she recovers, at home, from surgery.

## MINISTRY COUNCIL



Hello from your youth coordinator,

Happy holidays to all of our youth and families! I hope all of our youth has a great holiday break and are looking forward to a great 2017.

The Sunday meetings for our combined youth group have been going strong over the past month with discussions (and a youth worship) about the recent election, the significance of UU worship, and the history of the Christmas holiday. We sent 9 youth to a youth con about anti-racism at the begging of December. For the second year in a row we had a "Christmas cookie decorating Olympics" one Friday evening at USR and at the time of writing we're preparing for our youth sleepover at USR over the holiday break on December 28th.

Our youth-led worship service is coming up next month! The youth group will be leading the service on January 29th at USR and again on February 5th at CUC. That's always a good service, and I hope you're all looking forward to it as much as I am. We'll be planning for the future with a youth visioning gathering on January 14th at CUC. Parents, check your email for details of that meeting.

As the year has unfolded all of the adults involved with the youth group have been pleased at the character and strength of this youth community in providing support for one another during these trying times. Each year's group is its own unique personality and we're all looking forward to the rest of the year.

The youth group Sunday meetings will stay at USR in January and return to CUC for February and March. Thanks again to our adult advisors for all of their great work this year!

Thanks,  
 James



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Below are some upcoming events we hope you can make:



### Martin Luther King, Jr. 35th Annual Birthday Celebration

This special event will be held at the United Methodist Church on Van Neste Square in Ridgewood at 10 a.m. on **Monday, January 16**. If you're not involved in the CAMP/USR Family Day you are cordially invited to join others in this interfaith community event. The speaker will be *Iman Zaid Shakir, a Muslim American scholar* and co-founder of Zaytuna College in Berkeley, CA. After the service, there will be a march and Justice Rally in Van Neste Square followed by a free celebratory lunch.

Here's what Paul Aronsohn, a member of the organizing community has said about this celebration: "At the risk of saying something undiplomatic...my sense is that this very special event will be even more special and more important this year. Simply put, we - as a country and a community - need healing and action, and events

like this will be important opportunities to bring people together in a meaningful way."

### Books to Consider Reading

"Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right" by Arlee Hochschild recommended by Mary Byron.

"Deep Denial - The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life" by David Billings. Several from USR heard the author at an event at the Montclair Unitarian congregation. There is a copy on the Social Responsibilities Table at coffee hour.

**Pick Up a copy** of "10 Things You Can Do to Reform Law Enforcement in New Jersey" at the Social Responsibilities table at coffee hour. Thought provoking and useful. Published by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

### **Save the Date: Wednesday evening February 8**

The YWCA of Bergen County is presenting this year's Courageous Conversation at the Central Unitarian Church on Forest Ave. with refreshments at 6 and the program at 7 p.m. The focus of the conversation will be on processing what happened during the election cycle and drawing parallels to similar happenings in history, concluding with action steps on how to avoid normalizing behaviors and encouraging folks to work together to respond (not react) to the new administration so we can advance our missions of eliminating racism and promoting social justice and civil rights.

REPRODUCTIVE  
JUSTICE

### Save the Date!

The Reproductive Justice Committee invites you to a panel discussion focused on the rights and lives of incarcerated women and their families. From poverty to childhood trauma, panelists will discuss the many factors that play a role in imprisonment, as well as reflect on the state of women's rights within prison walls. Join in the conversation that is often left out of the discussion on mass incarceration. **Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm**. More details will come as the date approaches.



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### Plate Collection



On Sunday, **January 15, 2016**, the plate collection will be donated to the People's Organization for Progress (P.O.P.). USR has had a long relationship with P.O.P. and it has become traditional to donate the collection on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday to this vibrant group. In 2016 POP continues to speak out powerfully against the killings of black citizens by police. These protests, all over the country, led to the Black Lives Matter movement of which POP is in the forefront in New Jersey, and our congregation supports and promotes. This year POP is already organizing demonstrations and protests against the policies of the Trump administration, and is continuing a series of "Moral Mondays" marches to recall for all of us the principles on which our nation was founded.

On June 24, 2017, POP is planning a major March for Reparations. The concept of reparations for descendants of Africans kidnapped and enslaved in the U.S. is often a difficult one for white allies to understand and accept. This march offers another opportunity to learn more about it.

POP is an entirely volunteer organization. Checks payable to the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, with POP on the memo line, may be placed in the collection plate on January 15, or mailed to the Society.

Margaret White



For information  
sponsorship  
and / or  
endorsement  
please call  
(973) 801-0000

### 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.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### **25<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair a Success**

I'm delighted to announce that our 25<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair was a big success, grossing \$17,477.00 with over \$4,000 going to C.A.M.P., after expenses. In addition, the bake sale brought in \$353.00, also donated to C.A.M.P., a preschool and after school program in Paterson, which the Unitarian Society has supported since 1978.

It takes a village to run a Craft Fair and many people helped pull this off. I'd like to thank Carol Loscalzo, Sally Lewis, Marshall Katzman and Stephanie Gregoire, who acted as my ad hoc committee since last Spring. Thanks to Judy Silver for coordinating the bake sale again this year. The following people gave their time doing publicity, putting up posters, purchasing wine, setting up, working the bake sale, doing finances and collecting receipts. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your help. It was invaluable. Karen Ramsahaj, Ronnie Hirschman, Susan Burleson, Anita Knechal, Marilyn Maney, Claude Cesard, Mike Patterson, Bob Cohn, Doug Goodell, Donna Barrett, Chandrika Chowdhry, Ann Pareti, Bria Pierre and the ladies from C.A.M.P.

Marcy Cagan  
Chair  
Crafts in Ridgewood

### **Thank You from SHARE**

SHARE, Inc. was graciously awarded a plate collection on December 11, 2016. With much gratitude and appreciation, I want to extend our heart-felt thanks to the consistent support of USR. Your donations totaled \$1,202 on that Sunday. In addition, there are many of you who've answered the call for financial help in other ways this year. Maybe you attended the Just Desserts Fund Raiser in April or you gave something during our annual October letter campaign. Thank you, thank you, thank you. SHARE's future is looking brighter. We still have 6 vacancies, so please spread the word.

Georgetta Walsh- SHARE, Inc. Advisory Board, Charitable Giving

### **The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition**

The Ethical Brew at the Ethical Culture Society, 687 Larch Avenue in Teaneck on **January 21** at 8pm will support The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition, which is supported by USR and other religious and humanistic organizations and led by Elizabeth Ames. It features guitarist/singer Beppe Gambetta and violinist Diane Perry. More information at [www.ethicalbrew.org](http://www.ethicalbrew.org).



As most of you know, there will be several Women's Marches on Saturday, **January 21, 2017**, one day after the inauguration. USR members and friends are fortunate to have three options. There is a March on Washington D.C., a March on New Jersey in Trenton and a March on NYC. All the marches are pledged to rally in solidarity with the theme of equality for all. All the marches are inclusive with families and others welcome.

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**The March on Washington** states that "We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health and our families—recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country". It will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There are buses leaving from New Jersey sponsored by various organizations. Permits for the March have been granted. The Mission reads in part: .... In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us....

Face book: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2169332969958991/>

Website: <https://www.womensmarch.com/>

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**The March on New Jersey** will take place in Trenton from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. We rise together because we affirm the autonomy of women – all of us entitled to control our own bodies. We rise united because we affirm the dignity of women – all of us deserving of equitable concern, respect, and protection from abuse and violence. We rise together to advance racial justice and to fight discrimination based on our skin color, ethnicity, gender, religion, orientation, ability, or citizenship – all of us safe and free from discrimination and bigotry. We rise united to dismantle the barriers that keep too many people from healthcare, homes they can afford, and the public education on which democracy depends – all of us committed to moving toward a better tomorrow. We rise together to end police violence and mass incarceration - all of us standing together to fight against the inequality our sisters and brothers face everyday. We rise united for urgent action on climate change - all of us recognizing that none of these rights matter if we do not have clean water, clean air, and a habitable earth to leave our future descendants. From our diversity comes one message: we stand to protect women's civil and human rights. **Women United, Together We Rise!"**

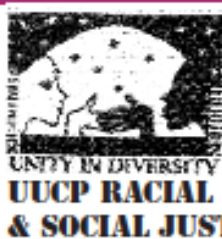
website: <https://sites.google.com/view/womensmarchonnewjersey>

Face book: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1800439700227430/>

EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-jersey-to-the-million-woman-march-on-dc-tickets-29359451911>

**The March on New York City** has similar goals – "to provide a safe and accepting platform for supporters or equality to rally and march in promotion of civil rights for every human regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, religion or creed."

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-march-on-nyc-tickets-29464021682>



**Central Unitarian  
Social Action Team**



the SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
COUNCIL of the  
UNITARIAN SOCIETY  
of RIDGEWOOD

**FRI., JAN. 27<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 P.M.**

***THIRSTY FOR DEMOCRACY:  
THE POISONING  
OF AN AMERICAN CITY***

DISCUSSION LED BY CUC MEMBER & ACTIVIST SALLY GELLERT



We were being told that the Detroit water system . . . was charging too much money, and "we're going to build this new pipeline so you folks can have cheaper water. While we build the pipeline, why don't we go to the river? You know, the one at General Motors dumped all that crap and stuff in, all the industrial toxins and stuff? We'll go to that river in the interim." And this—these decisions were made by an emergency manager.

And that's the untold story about the problem we have here. We don't have just a water problem. We've got a democracy problem. We've got a dictatorship problem. We've got a problem of being stripped of our democracy as we've known it over the years. [We are] a proud city with a rich labor history. . . . We had the first city of our size to elect an African-American mayor. We passed an open housing ordinance in the city of Flint, one of the first, very historic. We have such a rich history, the sitdown strike of 1937. We're just not the type of people that's used to being walked on. (Claire McClinton, Democracy Defense League, from the transcript of this *DemocracyNOW!* episode) (28 minutes, Not Rated)

**Central Unitarian Church**

156 Forest Ave., Paramus (assembly room)

filmseries@cucparamus.org • 201/262.6300

Doors open at 7 P.M.; donations gratefully accepted

NJ Transit bus lines #168, 752 (Norman Way & Forest Ave.)

**"Come for the film, stay for the discussion!"**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>  <b>11:00 Service</b>	<b>2</b>  12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	<b>3</b>  10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm  7:30 Connections/ Youth Rm	<b>4</b>  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:00 Racial Justice Mtg/Conf. Rm	<b>5</b>  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  9:00 AED/CPR Training/ Fellowship Rm
<b>8</b>  <b>10:00 Service</b> 11:15 Membership Mtg/ Conference Rm 11:45 Connections/ Youth Rm 12:30 Youth Group/ RE	<b>9</b>  12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustees Mtg/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	<b>10</b>  10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:00 CYRE Meeting/ Youth Rm 7:00 Ministerial Search/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	<b>11</b>  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 One Book USR/ Youth Rm 7:30 Writer's Group/ Conf. Rm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  (Snow Date) 9:00 AED/CPR Training/ Fellowship Rm  9:00 Ministerial Search/ Upstairs Mtg Rm
<b>15</b>  <b>10:00 Service</b> 11:30 Reproductive Justice/ Conference Rm 11:30 P&J/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 12:30 Youth Group/ Youth Rm 2:00 Art Reception/ Anderson	<b>16</b>  10:00 Martin Luther King Day  (All Rooms)	<b>17</b>  10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf Rm 7:00 Ministerial Search/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:30 Connections/ Youth Rm	<b>18</b>  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:30 Parent's Night Out/ RE Rm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  <b>10:00 Service</b> 11:30 Newcomer's Brunch/ Conf. Rm 11:30 Ministerial Search/ Upstairs Mtg. Rm 11:45 Connections/ Youth Rm 12:30 Youth Group/ Youth Rm	<b>23</b>  12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	<b>24</b>  10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm	<b>25</b>  7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:30 Writer's Group/ Conf. Rm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  6:30 Service Auction/ Anderson
<b>29</b>  <b>10:00 Service</b>  12:30 Youth Group/ Youth Rm	<b>30</b>  12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Meditation/ Fellowship Rm	<b>31</b>				

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#### Board of Trustees

Rob Willis, President	Holly Nolan, Trustee
Kevin Smith, Vice President	Laura Krag, Trustee
Peter Duran, Treasurer	Sean Brennan, Trustee
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	Jackie Nadler, Trustee

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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.



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