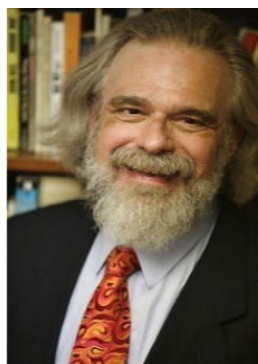
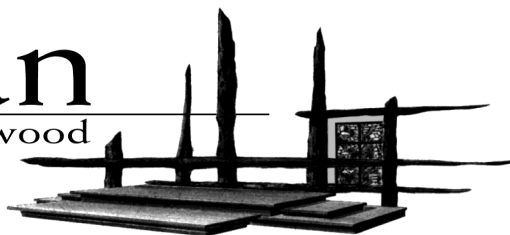


# Unitarian

## Society of Ridgewood



### From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

The Flower Communion is for Everyone!

On Sunday, **June 12<sup>th</sup>**, the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood will celebrate the Flower Communion (originally, Flower Festival), which is a uniquely Unitarian religious ritual.

Drawing members from many religious backgrounds into the newly founded Free Religious Fellowship in Prague, the Rev. Norbert Čapek sought to develop rituals that would nurture the spirit. In 1923, he initiated what he called a Flower Festival. He called the end-of-the year ritual a festival, so as not to associate it with the Christian practice of communion. The flower was the central image because, as his widow Maja wrote in 1961, "in the name of a flower or flowers no wars were waged as was the case with the Cross or the Chalice."

Each person brought a flower to add to vases in the lobby. The children carried the vases into the sanctuary. For a person to add a flower was to assert one's free choice to be part of the religious fellowship. To take a different flower at random was to acknowledge, in Norbert's words, "that we accept each other as brothers and sisters without regard to class, race or other distinction."

We celebrate what we now call the Flower Communion in the same spirit, with a less-freighted understanding of the word "communion," although I admire Čapek's willingness to develop not only a new ritual but also a new language of faith.

Here is a little more of the back-story.

In establishing the Free Religious Fellowship (Unitarian Church) in Prague in 1921-23, the Rev. Norbert Čapek sought to build a new church for a new nation. Czechoslovakia was established following the First World War. Čapek's friend and fellow Unitarian, Tomas Masaryk, was the first president of Czechoslovakia. While living in exile in the United States, both men had lobbied the American Unitarian Association to support a Unitarian mission to Czechoslovakia. The Unitarian Church in Prague remained a free religious fellowship under Nazi occupation and Soviet rule, and continues to this day.

**Please join in this joyous celebration of liberal religion and freely entered religious fellowship on the second Sunday.** Bring a flower to add to the vases and accept a different flower when you leave. The Flower Communion is a powerful ritual of the freely gathered religious community and the fellowship of religious liberals over geography and generations.

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

As we enter June, we continue a time of transitions - coming of age, bridging from youth into young adulthood, graduating, and more. Our religious education program is also coming to a close. Although many of you do not attend USR over the summer months, I encourage you to take some of our practices home, and keep our Unitarian Universalist values front and center in your family year round. Here are some ideas about how to do this:

- Display the 7 Principles in your house. You can buy a poster at the UUA's online bookstore, or even better, make your own!
- Choose or write a mealtime grace to say before family meals. Simple is good - when I was growing up, ours was "Thank you for this food and each other. Amen." A quick google search for humanist or atheist meal blessings comes up with many great results for anyone worried that grace is just for Christians or theists.
- Make social justice a habit by dividing allowances, proceeds from a lemonade stand, etc....in three: one third for "spend", one third for "save" and one third for "give away". Use this as an opportunity to discuss which charities best align with our values, and why.
- Identify one way to cut down on waste or consumption over the summer. Perhaps by riding bikes instead of driving to nearby destinations, or using a refillable water bottle instead of a disposable one.

Perhaps you're wondering what I'll be doing over the summer also, as the RE program runs only from September - June. I will be taking a few weeks of vacation, and for the remainder of the summer I will be hard at work studying, connecting with colleagues to share resources, ideas and inspiration, and planning for our 2016-2017 year! Specifically, I will be attending General Assembly in Columbus Ohio in the last week of June, and a Worship Renaissance Module (training session) in July. I will be recruiting and training religious education volunteers, planning family ministry and adult religious education programs in addition to our Sunday morning RE classes, facilitating LIFFT meetings, preparing to offer three levels of OWL Sexuality Education courses, and working with the Children & Youth RE Committee on a curricula review among other things.

It would be a tremendous help to me if you would register your children in advance for next year's religious education program at <http://goo.gl/forms/sgTk4VYb1H2rV2cS2>.

I look forward to seeing you on **June 5** for our Bridging Sunday, and **June 12** for our intergenerational Flow-er Communion Sunday. Beyond that, please feel free to reach out to me for any reason over the summer!

In faith,  
Johanna

## FROM THE BOARD



Dear Friends,

Recently, someone asked me what I had learned in my two years as President of the USR Board of Trustees.

Frankly, I've been too busy with the transition to think about this much – poring over my files and planning calendar, tying up as many loose ends as I can, and having my last round of meetings with lay leaders, the ministry team, and congregants. In this end-of-year busyness, I'm sure I would have put aside this question, so I'm grateful to this friend for asking.

So what have I learned as your President?

First and foremost, I've learned that change is hard and change is good – it's both things, often at the same time. We fear change and we relish it; we loathe it and yet we long for it. Like the tendrils of a vine seeking sunlight, we reach for change. Sometimes this reaching is tentative – the tendril twists and spirals before finally unfurling towards the light. Sometimes the change is more intentional, more direct. During my tenure on the Board, we've experienced both kinds of change.

The second lesson you've helped me to learn is the importance of listening with my heart. The Chinese character for listening is *ting*, and it incorporates not only one's ears and eyes but one's heart and undivided attention. To listen with one's heart requires that one be quiet and pay attention, and then pause long enough to consider someone else's perspective – because there is always another way to see some issue or problem. Listening with one's heart is *aspirational* – one can never do it completely or perfectly. At times, I think I've done this well; at other times, not so well. Through it all, you've helped me to appreciate the importance of this lesson.

I am so grateful to you all for the trust you've placed in me as your President for these last two years. It has been an amazing journey, and one that has changed me as a person. Thank you for this opportunity to serve our beloved community.

Warmest regards,

Suzanne

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

The USR Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5th following the service.

The USR Annual Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 12th following the service.

## FROM THE BOARD



### Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice in America: What Can We Do This Summer?

Below is a list, of things we can all do to continue our journey toward understanding racial justice, anti-racism, systemic racism, the interconnected web of oppression and white privilege.

- June 18, 2016 – attend the **Juneteenth Celebration**, New Overpeck Park, Ridgefield Park, NJ. 10a.m. – 8 p.m. Lots of fun things to do. Come for all or part of the day. Juneteenth commemorates the announcement by the Union Army of the abolition of slavery in Galveston TX on 6/19/1865, 2 ½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Volunteer and/or participate in **Citizens for Swimming** (August 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 in the afternoon). Contact Dawn Walter at [c4s.usr@gmail.com](mailto:c4s.usr@gmail.com) to see how you can help. Good opportunity for teens.
- September 5, 2016 – Attend the annual **Labor Day picnic** at the Metropolitan AME Zion Church, Ridgewood, 12 noon – 4:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the church. All welcome.
- Read "**Just Mercy**" by Bryan Stevenson, the 2015-16 UUA Common Read, for discussion on September 23. Save the date.
- October 15, 2016 – schedule time to attend the **UULMNJ Issues Conference** (in Morristown) with Chris Crass. Chris is a white anti-racist UU. He speaks on racial justice and Black Lives Matter.

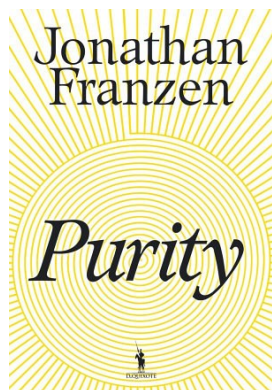
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#### Websites and other Resources

- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) <http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/> A national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice. You can learn about them at this website.
- YouTube video created by UUA's Church of the Larger Fellowship. [What it means to be white - Robin DiAngelo: The VUU #144 - YouTube](#)
- "The Case for Reparations" by Ta-Nehesi Coates. This is a 67-page article by the National Book Award winning author of "Between the World and Me". You can read it online or borrow the copy we will have at the Social Responsibilities Table. [The Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehesi Coates - The Atlantic.pdf](#)
- Allies for Racial Equality – UUA white anti-racist group in partnership with DRUUM, a UU People of Color Organization. <http://alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org/>
- People's Organization for Progress, a grassroots, progressive Newark group led by people of color. <http://njpop.org/wordpress/>

For More information, contact Carolyn Musser or Carol Loscalzo, Racial Justice Committee co-chairs.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL



### One Book USR

Our next meeting is **June 22** at 7:30 in Reeb. We will be discussing *Purity* by Jonathan Franzen. This novel is about a young woman named Pip who was raised by her mother and doesn't know who her father is. Newcomers are welcome!

### First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on **June 1st** to be hosted by Dorothy Neff at 12:30 p.m at her home. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please R.S.V.P. to let her know that you are coming and to let her give you directions if needed. All are welcome.



### Did you know there is a crowd funding website just for UUs?

It's called Faithify! And right now, you can help support Jaime Jarrett and their LGBTQ+ musical *Normativity*.

As with other crowd funding websites, Jaime only receives the money donated if they reach their goal.

Funding of this show will help increase compassion and empathy for gay youth at a time when LGBTQ+ issues are among the forefront of the social justice movement.

**All donations must be received by June 18<sup>th</sup>, so please consider making a contribution today!**

Click [here](https://www.faithify.org) to be brought to the Faithify.org website  
**THANK YOU!**



## MINISTRY COUNCIL



**THIS MONTH AT THE  
COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY**

### **Collage Collective Art Show**

June 5th through July 3rd, 2016

**Opening reception**  
Monday evening  
June 6th, 6:30-8:30pm

#### **CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!**

You are invited to participate in this summer's **USR Members Photography Show**, which will be on view in July and August. Members and friends are invited to submit one or two works (or three, depending on space available and number of submissions) for inclusion in the show. All work must be framed and wired for hanging. Please contact Carol Wolf for more information.

#### **We're Firin' Up the Grill...For USR's Annual BBQ Celebration**

Great food and fun for all ages!

**When?** Sunday, June 12th (immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Service)

**Where?** USR's backyard with the always fun bouncy house for the little ones and games for all.

**What?** Hotdogs, burgers (veggie, too) and beverages will be provided. To add to the feast, please bring a dish to share.

If your last name begins with....please bring:

A-M....Salad or Side Dish

N-Z.....Dessert

Please consider including a small card telling folks whether it's vegan, vegetarian, dairy-free or gluten-free.

**Who?** YOU! Wear your favorite concert/music T-shirt (family-friendly please) or a USR shirt.

#### **This year we are splitting up the volunteer schedule into shifts**

8:00am-10:30am - Setup Shift; 10:00 am-12:30 pm - Grill/Event Host Shift and 12:00 pm-2:30 p.m. - Takedown Shift. If you are able to help out at this year's BBQ/picnic, please see Ed Wardell during coffee hour. Thank you.

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

### Upcoming Services

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| June 5th  | <p><b>“From Here to There” (Wherever “There” May Be) - Bridging Sunday - The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson</b></p> <p>This Sunday we honor those senior youth who are completing high school through the UU ceremony of Bridging. A bridge may be the means to get from one place to another. It links different places. Bridging is a symbolic passage to the next stage of young adulthood. The Message is about how we get from here to there in life, whether or not we are sure of where we want to go. Musicians: Susan Heerema, violin and Ron Levy on piano</p>   |
| June 12th | <p><b>“The Heart of Religion” - The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson</b></p> <p>We conclude the season of formal services with the Flower Communion (originally, Festival), devised by The Rev. Dr. Norbert Čapek in 1923 for the Unitarian Church in Prague, Czechoslovakia. This is a multigenerational service. We invite each person – of any age – to bring a flower to include in the communion. Musicians: Ron Levy on piano</p>  |
| June 19th | <p><b>“Music and Words” - The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson and Ron Levy</b></p> <p>All the musical selections for this service have something in common. Can you guess it? Musicians: Ron Levy on piano; Elliot Pollack, Dave Spungen, Rick Sawyer, vocalists</p>  |
| June 26th | <p><b>“Poetry by the A/C Unit” - Led by Peter Levy</b></p> <p>The summer-solstice equivalent of the "Poetry by the Fire" service that we have every year near the winter solstice, is coming to USR on June 26th at 10:00 am. Come one come all to read either yours or your favorite writer's poetry, prose, accounting journal, grocery list, what have you, all within the cool environs of Anderson Hall, away from the hot and muggy world outside. All you have to do to read is register with one of the smiling receptionists at either of the entry ways and you're a shoo-in to read. Musicians: RJ Kelly on horns.</p> |

### From the USR Office

**Newsletter Schedule:** There will be no newsletter in the month of July.

**Summer Hours:** Please note the Office Staff will begin the summer hours on **June 13th**. We will be open every day from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. The schedule is as follows: Rev. Tony will be here on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please note Rev. Tony will be away from July 5th through August 15th. Please call the office at 201-444-6225 if you have a pastoral emergency or call Rob Willis or Ann Pareti. Johanna will be in the office on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is available, by appointment, the rest of the week. Chandrika will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Donna will be here on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and Ann will be available on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

### ~ OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY ~

#### Plate Collection for June 5th

Table-to-Table is a charity which rescues excess fresh and prepared food and delivers it free of charge to our hungry neighbors in Bergen, Hudson, Passaic and Essex counties. Its refrigerated trucks are on call to restaurants, supermarkets, farmers markets, corporate cafeterias and caterers. The fresh food is picked up, then delivered to soup kitchens, safe houses for women and children, homeless shelters, veteran and elder care programs. For each \$1 raised, ten meals are delivered. It's fast, it's fresh, and it's free.

#### SRC Action Table Thanks You

The Racial Justice Committee thanks all who responded to our call for action on May 15. Many came to the Social Responsibilities Action Table and we were able to send 50 + letters to our state legislators supporting companion bills, S.677/A.3677. The bills will authorize racial and ethnic impact statements on all bills related to criminal justice including sentencing guidelines. We will keep you informed as the legislation progresses. Thank you!

#### The Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition is Looking for One Host Volunteer

The Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition is looking for one host volunteer and case worker for PC. PC's story is summarized below. If interested in learning more, please contact Elizabeth Ames.

PC was born in Ethiopia and is 38 years old. He is not married and has no children. He entered the United States near Hidalgo, Texas and applied for political asylum and asylum based on his sexual orientation. He was accused of being a member of a terrorist organization because he opposed his government's demand to teach the history of their achievements. He was attacked several times because of his sexual preference. He was a teacher, so after the attacks he made a trip to Sweden; he completed a short course at the Ph. D. level in Mathematics but returned to Ethiopia and started to teach at the British International School in Addis Ababa (speaks excellent English). He later took a job as a lecturer at Fasiledes Comprehensive Secondary School. It was there, in 2015, that people from the People's Democratic Revolutionary Front, which is the ruling party, approached him and asked him to add to his lectures a laudatory history of their party.

He made it clear he was not interested, and later that day, two armed EPDRF members were waiting for him at his residence. He was allowed to make a call to a friend to tell him that he was taken to an unknown location for further interrogation. He was beaten and was accused of being a supporter of the Ethiopian Unity and Freedom Force [EUFF]. He denied any involvement and stressed his political neutrality in the cause of education. He was detained for the next 6 months, in a cell with about 20 other men. There were many armed guards outside in the compound. No visits or supplies from our families were permitted. After he was attacked by another cell mate, he was released from the facility. His friend helped him until he decided to leave Ethiopia. He is afraid that if he were to return to Ethiopia, he would be harmed and mistreated in worse ways than what he has already suffered. Due to the repressive laws which criminalize consensual same-sex activity, he cannot live openly as a homosexual anywhere in Ethiopia and aside from that, would not be able to get a job as a teacher. He has been detained since December. First Friends is raising money to pay his bond to help get him out of detention soon. His bond is \$1,500. He filed asylum and has a pro bono attorney at HIAS.





County Executive  
James J. Tedesco, III  
The Board of Chosen Freeholders  
and the African American Advisory Committee

Invite You to the  
**One Hundred and Fifty-First Anniversary of**  
**Juneteenth**  
*"Hallowed Grounds: Sites of  
African American Memories"*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016**

10 AM TO 8 PM

**BERGEN COUNTY NEW OVERPECK PARK,  
RIDGEFIELD PARK, NJ**

Entertainment • Food • Children's Games • Cultural &  
Historical Displays • Vendors • Exhibitors • Family Reunion  
• Tour of Historical Gethsemane Cemetery and  
• Martin Luther King, Jr. statue

**"Jazz Under the Stars"**  
featuring **"Jazzy Bear"**

For Information:  
Thedora S. Lacey 201-833-9180  
Arnold E. Brown 201-745-6975

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writers Grp/ Conf. Rm 7:30 Connections Grp/Youth Rm	2 7:00 Racial Justice Mtg./ Conf. Rm	3 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship	4
5 9:00 Pastoral Care Mtg/ Conf. Rm <b>10:00 Service</b> <b>11:30 Annual Mtg.</b> 11:45 Connections Mtg./ Youth Rm 6:00 Normativity Fund- raiser/Anderson	6 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 6:30 Art Reception/ Anderson 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm 7:00 BOT Meeting/ Conf. Rm	7 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	8 7:30 Social Resp. Council/Conf. Rm 7:30 Writer's Grp/ Youth Rm 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Connections Grp/Youth Rm	9 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	10	11
12 <b>10:00 Service</b>  <b>End of Year Picnic</b>	13 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	14 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm 7:00 CYRE Mtg/ Youth Rm 7:30 Connections Group/Youth Rm	15 7:30 Writer's Grp/ Conf. Rm 7:30 Connections Group/Youth Rm 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm	16 11:00 Mem- bership Mtg/ Conf. Rm	17 7:00 Youth Group Sleepover/ Reeb House	18 2:00 Fiberfest Meet- ing/Fellowship Rm
19 <b>10:00 Service</b>  11:45 Connections/Youth Rm	20 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	21 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm 7:30 Connections Group/Youth Rm	22 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 One Book USR/Youth Rm 7:30 Writer's Grp/ Conf. Rm	23	24	25
26 <b>10:00 Service</b>	27 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm  7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	28 10:30 Staff Mtg/ Conf. Rm	29 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm  7:30 Writer's Grp/ Conf. Rm	30		

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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



113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



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