



June 2019

MINISTRY COUNCIL

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We send our condolences to the family of Member, Sophie Noel, who passed away in May. A memorial for Sophie is planned for June 29th at 11 a.m. with a reception following the service. Memorial will be in Anderson.



UUA General Assembly (GA) Delegates Wanted

It is time again to think about GA, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year, GA is in Spokane Washington, June 19-23.

The theme is The Power of We. In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly, we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.

So far USR has one delegate attending. We would like to have a few more delegates. Delegates can go to Spokane and are responsible for their own transportation, housing, food and registration costs. Another option is to be an off-site delegate and just be responsible for the off-site registration cost, which is less than the on-site registration cost. Off-site delegates would attend meetings and seminars, which are live streamed, from the comfort of their home or any location they choose. Off-site delegates can make motions, ask questions and vote on issues important to the UUA. It's really neat the way it works. We have had at least one off-site delegate each of the last two years and would like to continue the run. More information about GA can be found at www.uua.org/ga.

If you are interested and/or have any questions, please contact Laura Krag or Martin Lavanhar.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Please join us at the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on June 5, 2019 to be hosted by Mary Alice Cesard, our talented storyteller, at 1 pm 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 necessary. Hope to see you there to meet both newcomers and old-timers. All are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Annual Meeting June 9th

"Half the battle is just showing up." - Stephen Hawking

Here at USR we pride ourselves on our strong traditions of lay leadership and transparent governance. This means that we show up.

On June 9th an important vote will be held to streamline our governance structure. In order for this change to be made we need a special quorum of 33% of our membership to be present to vote.

At the Annual Meeting taking place on June 9th following the service, the congregation will vote on the Budget, a By-Law change to adjust the number of members of the Board of Trustees from 9-7, and the proposed slates of Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee. In order to pass a By-Law Change, at least 1/3 of the 246 members of the congregation, which is 82, must be present, so please attend this very important meeting and participate in the democracy of our congregation.

Annual Meeting: June 9th after the Service: Listen, be heard, VOTE.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1

The governing body of the Society shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of ~~nine (9)~~ **seven (7)** voting members of the Society who are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting by a majority of the votes cast. The minister shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board. To serve on the Board, a person must be a member of the Society.

The Board shall consist of the (4) officers - President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, ~~(5)~~ **(3)** Trustees and the minister. The Officers shall serve a (2) year term with the Secretary and Treasurer having the option of no more than two (2) additional years. The ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** Trustees shall serve a term of ~~three (3) years~~.

The Vice-President shall also serve as the chair of the ~~Leadership~~ **Program** Council until such time as she/he becomes President and at that time the new Vice-President shall assume that position.

Resignations of Officers or Trustees must be tendered in writing. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, the President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, shall be empowered to appoint a successor to serve until the next Annual Meeting.

BBQ Volunteers Needed

The BBQ/Picnic Planning Team Need Your Help on June 23rd! Like last year, we are splitting the volunteer opportunities into shifts;

1-2 Days Prior — Shopping Crew or Tent Assembly Crew

8:00am-10:30am — Setup Shift

10:00am – 12:30pm — Grill /Event Host Shift

12:00pm-2:30pm — Takedown Shift

1-5 Days Following — Grill Return Crew

If you are ready, willing, and able to help out at this year's BBQ/picnic, please visit Dave Myers during a Sunday before or after service. Or call the office for his contact info.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



June Plate Collection

When the weather gets warm you know Citizens For Swimming is gearing up to host 100 children at Graydon Pool in Ridgewood. Citizens For Swimming has been hosting children from Paterson's CAMP YDP program every August for over 50 years. We provide 9 days of swim instruction plus lots of fun in the sun to Paterson day campers who have no other access to a pool. And we depend on your donations of money, supplies and time. We need to raise \$110 per child which covers pool admission, bus transportation, and supplies. We can't do it without you! Here's how to give:

Plate Collection – Half of plate offerings in the month of June will go to Citizens for Swimming. Please put something in the plate for us.

Online donation – Quick, easy, and safe online donations can be made [HERE](#).

Volunteer – Come and meet our amazing swimmers! If you can volunteer 1 hour or more of your time this August please send an email to C4S.USR@gmail.com. Youth volunteers welcome!

Supplies – We need bathing suits in all children's sizes, beach towels, sand toys and sunscreen. You can drop items off at the USR office or at Graydon Pool.

Sponsors – We are looking for local sponsors for lunch, sporting goods, and/or donations. Do you know a business that could help?



MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Thank You!

The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition would like to thank all those who contributed to the March shared collection plate, which was held on our behalf. We received the amazing sum of \$1,728.25!

The Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition would like to thank the committee of the Endowment Fund Grant for awarding us \$1,000, which is helping us to fund our recently hired part-time Social Worker.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

From the Reproductive Justice Committee

People have been asking what the UUA is doing about the current attack of reproductive health including abortion that is occurring in this country. Below is a very strong statement from the UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray. As she notes, this is based on the Statement of Conscience that was the culmination of the Congregational Study Action issue which was offered to General Assembly by USR in 2012. This is a very precarious time, and we are pleased to have the UUA standing with us.

Click [here](#) to read the statement.

Address Confidentiality Bill Expansion

May 23, 2019

Update

The UU Faith Action NJ Reproductive Justice Task Force submitted a suggestion for a bill to Sen. Loretta Weinberg in 2017. The members of the task force had become increasingly concerned about the harassment, intimidation and barely veiled violence that reproductive health care clinic workers, volunteers and patients were facing. After reading "Living in the Crosshairs, The Untold Stories of Anti-Abortion Terrorism" by David S. Cohen and Krysten Connon, and learning that California had a law that allowed these people to keep their addresses confidential, it appeared like a good idea to explore this for NJ.

The Legal Advocacy Task Force of UUFANJ researched this issue and developed proposed legislation to share with Sen. Weinberg. The new address confidentiality bill would expand the address confidentiality law in place for domestic violence survivors to include reproductive health workers. The bill was introduced in the State Senate in May 2017. Since that time it was:

- Passed in the State Senate
- Reintroduced into the 2018-2019 Senate legislative session
- Introduced into the 2018-2019 Assembly legislative session with Assemblywoman Pam Lampitt chief sponsor
- It has passed the State Senate
- Recently the bill was merged with another address confidentiality expansion bill to include sex abuse and stalking victims with Assemblywoman Pintor Marin chief sponsor.

On Thursday, May 23 the bill passed in the State Assembly. It is now headed to the Senate for concurrence with the merger. If it passes then, it will go to the Governor's desk for signing.

During the stressful/challenging time for abortion rights advocates, it is notable that this bill has passed both houses with unanimous votes. As abortion bans are in place and harassment increases at clinics, this law will give clinic workers, volunteers and patients a sense of safety and security.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE SEEKS GREEN COMMITMENT



At the Annual Meeting on June 9, 2019 the congregation will be asked to vote on a statement of conscience from the Environmental Justice Committee affirming our commitment as a green congregation. See below.

Why are we doing this?

- Climate change is threatening our planet for ourselves and for future generations. It is urgent that we take a public stand for climate justice and pledge to preserve and protect the environment.
- Like other USR statements of conscience on racial justice and welcoming it defines our congregation as committed to fully explore and deepen our dedication to our principals, for us, the seventh principal to respect and care for our earth.
- The mission of our committee is to learn, lead and empower our congregation to be better stewards of the earth as well as seek more equitable policies for all people. Through the affirmation we are asking that we join together as a congregation to commit to employing green practices both at USR and as individuals. We also seek a commitment to justice for those who bear some of the most potent effects of environmental degradation.
- The affirmation as a "green congregation" is a broad, general, over-arching position statement that we, as a congregation, support the environment.

The effects of the vote will guide the Board, Minister and administration in making future environmentally sound decisions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood Affirmation as a Green Congregation

BECAUSE we affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations, the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part; and because we share the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and

BECAUSE the concept of protecting the Environment of the Earth links the principles of liberal religion with the values of ecological awareness and racial and class justice, and

BECAUSE we support the free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and we recognize that the overwhelming consensus within the scientific community is that global climate change is real, and that the activities of humans are at least partially responsible, and

BECAUSE, global climate change seems to be producing an extinction event in nature, and over time, could potentially threaten all life on earth,

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Congregation of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, hereby AFFIRM and DECLARE that:

We support sustaining the climate so that planet Earth will remain habitable,

We support and commit to the ongoing greening of USR as steps leading toward our long-term goal of Certification of USR as a Green Sanctuary,

We affirm ourselves as a Green Congregation, signifying our ongoing commitment to environmental justice, and to preserving, protecting and defending the Environment for all.

For questions or comments, please contact Environmental Justice Committee Co-chairs Marilyn Maney or Peter Orsini.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Racial Justice Committee

Thank you to all who were at the May 5 service about white fragility and to the 25 who also came to the discussion immediately following the service. Both were deep dives and explorations of the ideas in Robin DiAngelo's book "White Fragility".

The Racial Justice committee will offer programs next Fall to keep this conversation going. In the meantime, here are links to two recent news stories that are immediately relevant. One is an interview with four Utah Jazz basketball players (<https://www.theplayertribune.com/en-us/articles/kyle-korver-utah-jazz-nba>) and the other is about testimony given to a Congressional Committee by Susan Bro, (<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2019/5/16/1858042/-Exchange-Between-AOC-and-Susan-Bro-Demonstrates-How-White-Privilege-Can-Be-Used-for-Change>) the mother of Heather Heyer who was killed during the Charlottesville demonstrations.

Here too, is a [link](#) to the committee's most up-to-date book/film list. You may find something here to read/watch over the summer.

The list is also printed on Pages 8 and 9.

News from the USR Office

Newsletter: The next newsletter will come out in August 2019 with an article due date of July 24th.

Resource Handbook: We would like to complete the 2019-2020 Resource Handbook over the summer. Please provide your updated information to Chandrika at usr.secretary@gmail.com by June 30th. Thank you.

Office Hours: The office will remain open from 9-1 p.m. during the summer starting on June 24th.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

RACIAL JUSTICE

Book and Movie Recommendations

Recently published

"Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow" by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

"When They Call You A Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir" by Patrisse Khan-Cullors
This book is published by St. Martins Press. George Witte, a member of USR, is the editor.

Note: *The committee is working with George to have the author come to USR.*

"An African American and Latinx History of the United States, ReVisioning American History" by Paul Ortiz

"White Nigger: The Struggles and Triumphs of Growing Up Bi-Racial in America" by Jason Bost

Books we've discussed

"Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving (who also presented an evening at USR Spring 2017)

"Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates

"Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson

"The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander

"White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo, published by Beacon Press (UU) (subject of a service May 5, 2019)

Books the committee and other USR members have read and recommend

"Dismantling the Racism Machine" by Karen Gaffney

"White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide" by Carol Anderson.

"Give Us The Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America" by Ari Berman

"The Color of Law": A Forgotten History of How Our Government

"Segregated America" by Richard Rothstein

"The Third Reconstruction" by William Barber

"When Affirmative Action Was White" by Ira Katznelson

"Birth of a White Nation, The Invention of White People and Its Relevance Today"
by Jacqueline Battalora

"The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism: by Mark Morrison-Reed (a UU minister)

"Hidden Figures" by Margo Lee Shetterly (also a film of the same name)

UU Common Read 2-16-17:

"Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry" edited by Mitra Rahnema and "Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want" by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen

"In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby" by Mark Morrison-Reed

"We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy" by Ta-Nehisi Coates

"From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation" by Keeanga-Yamahta Taylor

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Television

"Reconstruction: America After the Civil War" 2 segments aired on PBS April 2019

For Youth

Book: "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult

An MTV program: "White People"

Articles

"The First White President" by Ta-Nehisi Coates in The Atlantic magazine Oct. 2017

"The Black Hole in the UU Psyche" Fall 2017 UU World

Recent films

"Hidden Figures"

"I Am Not Your Negro"

"Get Out"

"Mudbound" (Academy Award nominee)

"13th"

"Black Panther"

"If Beale Street Could Talk"

"Green Book"

Updated May 9, 2019

**SOCIETY CAFE
CONCERT SERIES
2018 - 19 SEASON PRESENTS...**



15TH ANNUAL TWO PIANO FESTIVAL



**FROM BACH TO BOLCOM, WITH MENDELSSOHN,
ARENSKY AND JOHANN STRAUSS, JR. ALONG THE WAY**

PERFORMED BY THE PROFESSIONAL DUO PIANISTS OF
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY RAISING MONEY FOR THE PIANO SCHOLARSHIP
FUND OF THE PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TEACHERS GUILD

Sunday, June 9th

Concert at 3 p.m., followed by a reception

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ

\$20 at the door

uuridgewood.org/society-cafe

\$5 at the door for ages 12-17, must be accompanied by an adult



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our sponsors**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 Service - RE Sunday, Jeanne Nametz 11:15 Smile Pack; Fellowship 11:30 Environmental Justice; Conf. Rm	3 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:00 BOT Mtg/Conf Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	4 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	5	6 2:00 Membership Meeting 7:30 Adult Choir/Fellowship	7	8
9 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:15 Annual Meeting/Anderson 3:00 Two Piano Festival/Anderson	10 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	11 2:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 CYRE Mtg/Conf. Rm	12 1:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 Reproductive Justice/Conf Rm	13 2:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Adult Choir/Fellowship	14 6:30 Zen Retreat/RE	15 9:00 Zen Retreat/RE
16 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:45 P&J Mtg/Conf. Rm	17 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	18 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm	19 1:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm	20 7:30 Adult Choir/Fellowship	21	22
23 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:15 Annual Picnic Mtg Rm	24 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	25	26 7:30 One Book USR/Conf. Rm	27 7:30 Adult Choir/Fellowship	28	29 11:00 Sophie Noel's Memorial/Anderson and Fellowship.
30 10:00 Service - Guest Speaker — Katie Byron						

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

Website www.uuridgewood.org

Board of Trustees

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

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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 July 24th deadline
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com