



**From the
Minister's Mailbox**

As this shortest of months wraps up, we are looking forward to what is on the horizon. March will bring us the opportunity to celebrate stories of liberation and freedom and redemption, as well as the coming of Spring. We will also be looking at our mission and deepening our understanding of what it calls us to. The next five weeks are packed full!

Coming soon is our Social Justice weekend focusing on racial and reproductive justice. We will have excellent programming on Friday March 9 and Saturday March 10, focusing on Black Lives Matter and Black Mamas Matter. Plan to be here as we continue to develop our commitment to BLM and to understanding the ways that all justices intersect.

Also in March we will celebrate our community through the Fellowship Feast, a wonderful event for gathering together as one large community. I'm excited to experience my first of these, and to learn more about what has made this such a special event for so many years.

Late in the month, we hope to hold a USR Passover Seder. Many of us, myself included, come from Jewish backgrounds. A Seder gives us an a chance to honor the stories of our ancestors among our beloved USR family. We're hoping many of you will want to join in that commemoration, whether or not you have Judaism in your own history.

Then April 1 brings Easter. We will retell the story, lift up the hope for redemption and renewal and have a good time while we're at it! April 1 will also be the final in our three part sermon series on our mission statement.

USR's Mission reads:

Growing in mind and spirit, we act together as a beacon of justice and love, transforming self and world. It's a lofty statement, and a worthy one, and one that we need to periodically dig deeply into.

So please join us all throughout the month for fellowship, thoughtful worship, and traditional commemorations and celebrations.

And enjoy the (hopefully) warming weather!

Blessings,
Rev. Sarah



Reflections

As we transition from the Winter of February into the coming Spring of March I am reflecting on how tumultuous the weather has been recently. We have seen days in the 80's followed by days in the 30's; windy days followed by rainy days followed by days in the blistering heat followed by days of snow. It has reminded me that in the midst of such changing conditions it is more important than ever that we stay strong and steady in our commitment to the rock that is our USR Community.

In the coming month of March there are multiple wonderful fellowship opportunities for the whole family. Beyond our normal monthly offering of Friday Night Out on the first Friday of the month we are also offering several Social Justice and Community Building events to be aware of. From March 9-11 you and your family are invited to join us for "A Justice Weekend at USR" sponsored by the Racial and Reproductive Justice Committees. Between a conversation about Black Lives Matter on Friday, a screening of a film about Race and Gender followed by a panel discussion on Saturday, and our service on Sunday there is enough for everyone to find their place at the table. Childcare will be provided for the Saturday Night Event.

You and your family are also invited to our annual Fellowship Feast on Saturday **March 17th** starting at 6 p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to make new friends and get to know folks in the congregation. Childcare provided for all ages.

May you all have a happy and healthy beginning to your Spring Season,

Blessings,

Rev. Dylan Doyle-Burke



Hello from your youth coordinator,

As winter comes to a close the youth group is beginning to move toward its next big project, our yearly youth-led worship service. The dates for this year's youth service will be **April 22** at Paramus and **April 29** at Ridgewood. Planning a good worship service requires effective collaboration so our youth should be sure to attend our different planning events next month. Stay tuned for dates!

Looking back over the past month, our Sunday youth group meetings have examined the recent school shootings across the country this year, corporate branding in movies and TV shows, and included a discussion about drugs in society and in our lives. Our off-Sunday activities last month included a Super Bowl Party (go Eagles!) and a Friday Game Night where we discussed the deeper spiritual meaning of Cameron Crowe movies. The next Friday Game Night will be moved back one week this month because of an upcoming youth con (March 3-4 in Summit, NJ) and will be **March 9** from 6-10 p.m. at CUC. All youth grades 9-12 are invited, and friends are always welcome!

Youth program activities will be held at CUC in March and then switch to USR for April. And, as always thanks to our adult advising volunteers for all of their great work this year, and a special thank you to the staff at both congregations for their support in getting the youth calendar organized for the rest of our year. Your support makes this whole program possible.

Thanks,
James



As you might already be aware, the Board of Trustees has spent a considerable amount of time this year evaluating our organizational structure and considering what changes would simplify how we all work with one another. We have concluded that the reporting structure is at times unnecessarily cumbersome, and that an organization like ours needn't be quite so hierarchical.

We should be a place that encourages participation and is flexible enough to allow congregants to easily pursue their interests. Many of the members of our congregation (particularly those who have young families) have a limited amount of time that they can devote to volunteer work at the USR. If we want to encourage more people to be involved in the work of the USR, then it needs to be easy and fun.

Additionally, our current organizational chart does not accurately reflect the role that Rev. Sarah is playing in the life of the congregation. Unlike some of her predecessors, Rev. Sarah's participation at the USR extends far beyond delivering an address on Sunday morning, providing pastoral care, and interfacing with the Board.

We have already begun to engage with some of the leaders of congregation to discuss our ideas and gather feedback. Please stay tuned for announcements for an upcoming Town Hall and a series of meetings with whoever is interested in learning more and providing input.

Thanks,
Rob Willis

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Fellowship Feast Saturday, March 17, 2018

Enjoy an evening of laughter, good food and fellowship with the USR community to kick off the Pledge Drive season! The Fellowship Feast will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour followed by a potluck dinner by table and a show with a new, exciting format featuring our own members and friends. Childcare will be provided as well as dinner. Table hosts will be reaching out to invite congregants in the first week of March. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Krag. We look forward to seeing you on **March 17th** for this fun event! See flyer on Page 4.

Lock the Door and Close the Shades! It's Time for the Annual Pledge Drive!

Whoa! Not necessary! If you were at the last town hall meeting, you heard Rob Markowitz announce that canvassers will NOT be ringing your bell or your telephone asking for your pledge this year. Instead, the Pledge Drive chairs and the members of the Board of Trustees plan a subtle campaign of information and consultation. Look for a subsequent announcement from the Ministers Welcoming Committee about opportunities to talk about the future of the Society in Small Group Meetings this Spring. Meanwhile, the Pledge Drive chairs will make themselves available to supply information about the Society's budget, and all the ways that it finances our mission. Look for our friendly and informative faces at a table in the Fellowship Room each Sunday starting **March 5**, where we will be ready to answer questions about the intricacies of church finances. During the month of March, take some time to think about your role in keeping this Society viable and fiscally sound. Come talk to us about how to be good stewards for USR. We will be looking for you!

Anita DiGiulio and Rob Markowitz, your Pledge Drive Chairs

**DON'T
MISS**

The N-UU-lywed Game



Fellowship Feast Saturday, March 17th

Cocktails begin at 6pm
followed by dinner and then the show!
Anderson Auditorium

This year's entertainment:
The N-UU-lywed Game!

with our host,
Jeff "UUbanks" Summerville
and this year's contestants:
Stephanie and Sean Brennan
Karen Ramsahai and Dave Myers
Christian Reinhardt and Marijan Por
Dawn and Charlie Walter
Suzanne and Rob Willis
M-UU-sic by the USR Band!

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

March 4th	"Courage, Resilience and Risk" - Guest Speaker: Julica Hermann de la Fuente This will be a Time for All Ages service. Musician: Ron Levy, piano
March 11th	"Black Lives Matter" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi Part of the Racial and Reproductive Justice Weekend Musicians: Richard Hobson, baritone; Ron Levy, piano
March 18th	"Growing in Mind and Spirit - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi Bring a Friend Sunday Musicians: Society Singers; Ron Levy, piano
March 25th	"Together a Beacon of Justice and Love" - Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi Musicians: Richard Blake, bassoon; Ron Levy, piano

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We offer condolences to the family of long-time member Marion Arenas who died recently. Marion's daughter, Sally Halloran and son-in-law is Kevin Halloran are both members of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown Bag Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown Bag Luncheon on **March 7th, 2018** at 1 p.m. hosted by Anita Young. The hostess will provide dessert and beverages. Please call the hostess to let her know that you are coming and to let her give you directions if needed. Hope to see you there! All are welcome! Anita has graciously agreed to make this offer again, since inclement weather cancelled the February Luncheon at her house.

Monday Lecture Series

On Monday, **March 5**, the Monday Lecture Group of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood will begin a new Great Courses lecture titled "The World's Greatest Geological Wonders", a 36-week lecture series. Each lecture will focus on one spectacular site and discuss the science behind it's creation. Every Monday promptly at 12:30 PM, we meet in the Fellowship Room at the rear of the main Unitarian building and view one 30 minute lecture followed by about one hour of open discussion. Participation is free of charge and open to all members of the congregation and of the greater Ridgewood community. There is no need to sign up or register. Just arrive on time. We hope you can join us.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

SHARE Senior Housing Plate Collection Thank you

Thank you very much for the generous plate collection donation of \$1,729 to SHARE. As you know, the two senior residences in Ridgewood are very old and require a lot of work. The funds donated will be used for maintenance projects. The board, staff and residents at SHARE are grateful for the continued support of USR. Thank you!

Plate Collection - March 11, 2018

The plate collection on social justice weekend has traditionally been donated to a group or groups related to the featured speakers. On Sunday **March 11** the collection will be shared by 2 organizations. The first is Black Lives NJ at the request of our Friday speaker, Zellie Imani, the leader of Black Lives Matter Paterson. The money will then be sent to Black Lives Paterson. The second is Ancient Song Doula, founded by our speaker, Chanel Porchia-Albert. She founded Ancient Song Doula in 2008 with the goal to offer quality Doula Services to Women of Color and Low Income Families who otherwise would not be able to afford Doula Care.

Plate Collection application deadline – March 14, 2018

In 2009, the USR Board granted the Social Responsibilities Council (SRC) approval to use the Offertory Collection at Sunday services to collect money for social justice causes, as determined by the SRC. The deadline to submit applications for the next cycle is Wednesday, **March 14**. The Council will consider all requests made by members and friends of the USR. The cause should be consistent with the mission of USR to be "a beacon of justice and love in the world". The applications are on the USR website. Please complete the form and submit it to the office or send to Carol Loscalzo. Questions: ask Carol or any member of the SRC. All social justice chairs and co chairs are on the Council.

Racial and Reproductive Justice Weekend

Please join the Racial and Reproductive Justice Committees for important events on **March 3/9 - 3/11**. We are very excited about our social action weekend. We would love to see many USR people at the events - Friday, 3/9 for Black Lives Matter; Saturday 3/10 for Black Mamas Matter and service on 3/11 with Rev. Sarah. Check your calendars and schedule for all 3 events.

As you'll see, Friday night's speaker is Zellie Imani a leader in the Black Lives Matter movement in Paterson. Come learn about the challenges of this movement for their leaders. Saturday evening focuses on the challenges black women face during pregnancy and childbirth. The mortality rate for black women is dramatically greater than for white women. During the weekend, the role structural racism plays in these issues will be explored. Child care is available. See flyer on Page 7. We would love to see you there!



THE RACIAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
COMMITTEES OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY
OF RIDGEWOOD INVITE YOU TO

A JUSTICE WEEKEND AT USR

MARCH 9-11, 2018

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood
113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

FRIDAY, MARCH 9 at 7pm **BLACK LIVES MATTER IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

with Paterson Teacher And Activist **Zellie Imani**

Location: Fellowship Room – Program begins at 7:15

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 at 6:30pm **RACE AND GENDER IN OUR NATION**

with a Screening of “Death by Delivery” and a Panel of Activists:
Black Mamas Matter & Ancient Song Doula, **Chanel Porchia-Albert** and
Natalie Roche, MD, Associate Professor, Dept of OB/GYN & Women’s Health,
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

*Light Dinner followed by documentary and panel discussion: \$10 donation
To make a reservation, please email usr.secretary@gmail.com*

Location: Anderson Hall – Program begins at 7:15

SUNDAY, MARCH 11 at 10am

Sunday service with Sermon by Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi. All are welcome!

Child care available with one
week notice. For reservations,
contact Dylan Doyle-Burke
at usr.dre1@gmail.com

the
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD

113 Cottage Place
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www.uuridgewood.org

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Peace and Justice by Anita Young, chair

This year USR joined the Interfaith Committee of Bergen County. On February 19th the Interfaith Committee held an Interfaith Celebration at Bergen Community College, which they also co-sponsored. The Celebration was held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.. The nine faiths represented were the Baha'i, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Sikh and UU. The title of the celebration was Pursuing Peace in Challenging Times. The keynote speaker was Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen, followed by a panel which answered questions put forth by the moderator, Rev. Peggy Niederer. The panel represented all lay people from all the faiths represented and then was followed by a Student Panel Discussion. The celebration was well attend-

ed and a few members of our community attended and assisted at the UU table. We will be meeting on **March 5th** and it is my intent to discuss how we can work together on social justice issues, thereby, increasing visibility from interfaith groups.

Anita Young

Family Promise Update — Calling a few good cooks!

USR needs volunteers to prepare dinner on Sunday, **March 11th**; Monday, **March 12th** and Tuesday, **March 13th**. Something simple, like tacos, chicken or burgers. Thank you to those who have volunteered for the sleepover on those dates. Now would others check their calendars to see if they can help out? As an FYI, the venue for Family Promise is United Methodist Church, Ridgewood. Please contact Betsy Longendorfer to volunteer or find out more about how to volunteer for this important community program. Thank you!

Save the Date — March 10th

Please join us for the 4th Annual Muusic Fest at the UU Church at Washington Crossing in Titusville, NJ. Tickets cost \$15.00. Please click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE JOINS COALITION

The Environmental Justice Committee and the Social Responsibilities council recently voted to join forces with the organization Food and Water Watch New Jersey in a coalition to work towards lessening our dependence on fossil fuels and towards utilizing renewable energy resources. The Real Clean Energy Plan, developed by Food and water Watch, makes recommendations for fair and equitable energy solutions for all communities, including those that are less advantaged. We will actively support ideas and legislation supporting these goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE SPONSORS FILM

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY APRIL 13, 7 p.m. sharp, Anderson

Join us for 2017's most talked about climate change film: ***An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power.*** It's been called "powerful and urgent" and "more important than ever". Joining us for the evening to discuss the film will be Harriet Shugarman, the "Climate Mama". Light refreshments. Child care will be provided with one week's notice. Watch for a flyer coming your way.

GREEN IDEAS

Did you know that an estimated 80 million Hershey's kisses are wrapped each day, using enough aluminum foil to cover over 50 acres - that's almost 40 football fields of recyclable foil! Let the Environmental Justice Committee regale you with some interesting green facts and some at home greening tips in upcoming USR publications.

Here's one for today:

Attention gym rats. Enjoy a nice cool drink while working out? Try a stainless steel water bottle instead of a plastic throwaway one. Keeps that drink nice and cool and can be used an infinite number of times.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6:30 Friday Night Out	3 8:00 Orpheus Men's Chorus Fundraiser/Anderson
4 10:00 Service - Guest Speaker	5 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Board of Trustees/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	6	7 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	8 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/ Fellowship	9 7:00 Justice Weekend — Black Lives Matter/ Fellowship Rm	10 6:30 Justice Weekend — Race and Gender in our Nation/Anderson
11 10:00 Service—Rev. Sarah Lenzi	12 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	13	14 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog Café	15 7:30 Adult Choir Practice/Anderson	16 7:00 Social Justice Monopoly/ Anderson (Auction fundraiser)	17 6:00 Fellowship Feast/Anderson
18 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Reproductive Justice Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm 11:30 P&J Meeting/ Conf. Rm	19 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship 7:00 SRC Mtg./ Conf. Rm	20	21 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog 7:00 Racial Justice Committee Mtg/Conf. Rm	22 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	23	24
25 10:00 Service—Rev. Sarah Lenzi	26 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship	27	28 10:30-12:30 Coffee with Rev. Sarah at American Bulldog 6:30 Faith Talks at the Steel Wheel Tavern	29 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	30	31 6:00 Passover Seder/Anderson

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Chandrika Chowdhry, Secretary 201-444-6225
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Board of Trustees

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Sally Lewis, Vice President	Laura Krag, 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.



the
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SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD**

113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



NOW accepting articles for March 24th deadline
@ usr.membership1@gmail.com