



March 2019

MINISTRY COUNCIL

CIRCLE OF LIFE

For those congregants who know Jim and Pat Hyatt: (both former active members and Jim served as board president back in the '80s.) Unfortunately Pat and Jim were involved in a serious pedestrian/motor vehicle accident near Princeton, NJ where they now live. Multiple broken bones and surgeries for Jim. Mercifully, it looks as if they did NOT sustain any head, spine, face or organ injuries, but they do both face a long road to recovery. Pat is in a rehabilitation facility now and Jim will head there soon. Daughter Laura and son David are holding down the fort but did request NO phone calls, contacts or visits to any of the Hyatts just yet. If you are so inclined, a card or a note to Pat and Jim's home address will make its way to them. 19 Richard Court, Princeton, NJ 08540.

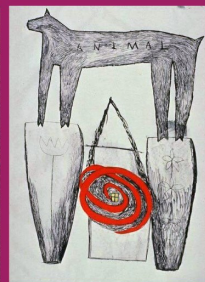
MARCH EXHIBITION AT THE COTTAGE PLACE GALLERY

WORK BY

**Lou Laurita &
Sue Laurita**

March 3 - 24, 2019

Opening Reception
Sunday, March 3rd
from 1-4pm



The Gallery is located at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, 113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Calling all Artists and Photographers — Celebrate our Earth!

In observance of Earth Day in April, the Art Committee and the Environmental Justice Committee will be collaborating to mount a month-long show entitled "We Protect What We Love." USR members, friends, and local artists are invited to share their artwork and photography for this special exhibit celebrating nature. An art reception will be held on Sunday, April 14th from 2-5pm. The public is welcome.

If you'd like to participate in the show, please submit one or two works of any medium (paintings, drawings, collage, photography, etc.), framed with a wire on the back for hanging. Artwork may be brought to the USR office by Sunday, March 31st. Please contact Carol Wolf if you have any questions.

Recap of Harpsichord Celebration

The Society Cafe Concert Series presented "Harpsichord Celebration" on Saturday, February 9th, to show off our newly-acquired harpsichord. The instrument was generously gifted to us by Delight and Paul Dodyk. Three musicians played the baroque instrument that evening: Ron Levy, James Kennerley (conductor of local chorus Ars Musica) and Eric Clark, of All Seasons Chamber Players. Other performers included Kristen Plumley, soprano, Owen Davitt, oboe, and All Seasons Chamber Players Lisa Hansen, flute, and E. Zoe Hassman, cello. The program included works by Monteverdi, Bach, Handel, Rameau, JaRon.



Ron Levy began the evening with *Invictus*, by Joseph Turrin, written especially for this inaugural concert.

Eric Clark, harpsichord; Delight Dodyk, who gifted the harpsichord to USR; Kristen Plumley, soprano; Owen Davitt, oboe; and Ron Levy, harpsichord.



STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



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 social time followed by a potluck dinner by table and a show featuring our own members and friends. Childcare will be provided. Table hosts will be reaching out to invite congregants soon. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Krag at or Kathy Smolen.

We look forward to seeing you on March 16th for this fun event!

Service Auction Offering

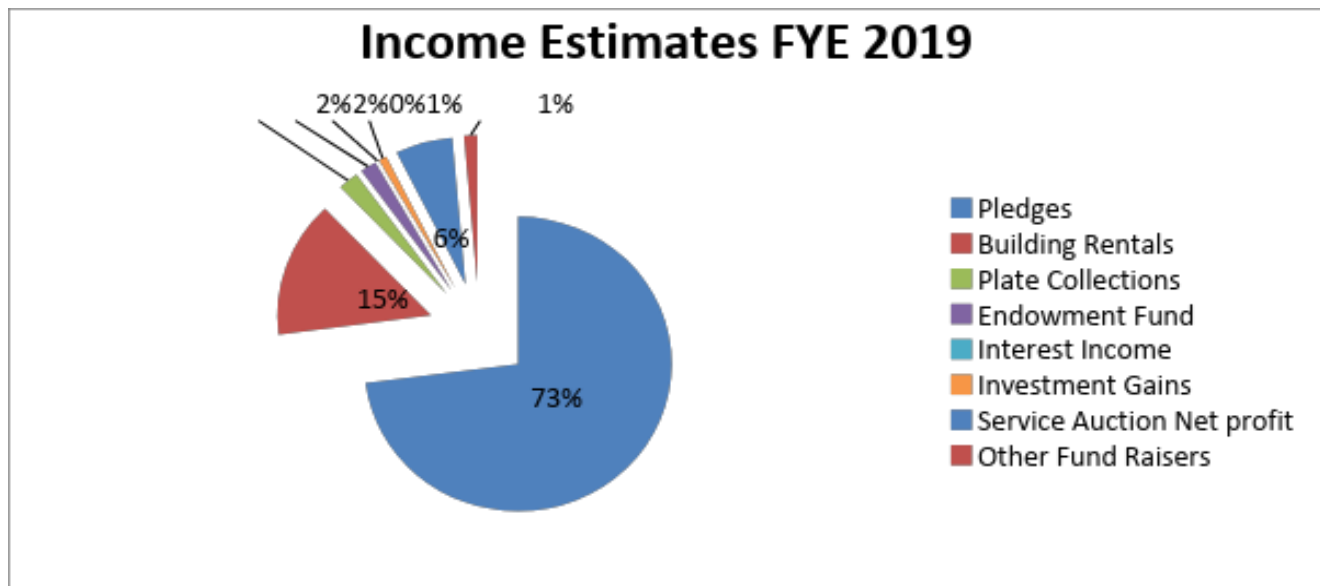
Kiss Winter Goodbye with String Trio Masterpieces and a Toast to Spring, March 17th 3-5 p.m., with drink and light food at \$35 in Anderson Auditorium. There are still plenty of tickets available or pay at the door. If you haven't already bid on this item, please consider attending this event, performed by Jonathan Spitz and other musicians from the NJSO. Send your check, payable to USR. Please put String Trio in the memo line or bring your money with you!

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

From the Stewardship Team

A significant income generator for the Society is the annual Service Auction. We are pleased to report that the Auction was a great success this year, generating total donations of about \$36,000, close to the amount budgeted. This auction represents a sizeable chunk of our budgeted income. The results this year compares favorably to the amount generated in past years. We still have a few attractive items available. Click [here](#) to look at additional offerings. Additional bids will put us over the top for 2019!

As this handy chart shows, the net income from the auction represents about 6 % of the income needed



to support our operating budget. You can see in this graph that over 70% of the Society's budget is funded by member pledges. With our budget at over \$600,000, we need to raise more than \$400,000 from congregants to keep the Society operating each year. We expect to need \$440,000 for the next fiscal year ending in 2020.

The other significant source of funding for the Society is rentals by outside organizations. You probably know that our auditorium and Fellowship room are both in frequent use by everyone from English Country Dancers to Montessori teachers. Unfortunately, rental income has been sliding in the current fiscal year, and we expect reduced rental income in the next fiscal year.

Our fiscal year begins on July 1 each year. We vote on our budget for the next year at the annual meeting in early June. Working backwards, our Finance team constructs the budget in May once we know the results of the Pledge Drive, which as I said above, is the most significant contributor to our operating funds.

What goes into our operating budget? Ministry is the biggest piece. It costs a bunch to have a great minister in the pulpit, but Ministry also includes the other important programs which are part of our mission. We could go on, but you are probably nodding off already. Suffice it to say that the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship team will soon be staffing a table at Coffee hour each Sunday where we can regale you with facts and figures about our financial realities. Look for this in the month of March.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

2019 Grants

The Planned Giving Committee is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for grants for 2019. The Unitarian Society is committed to encouraging our members' social work and commitment in the greater community and world. Our grants are meant to help in supporting worthy causes. In the recent past we have supported education programs in Patterson, sponsored political asylum families, supported SHARE construction, funded CASA among many other endeavors. This year we will have \$10,000 available to participants. The deadline for the applications is March 15th. Please contact the USR office for applications that can be obtained either in hard copy or via email. Applications should be emailed to Jeff Cagan (chair). Or, click [here](#) for the application.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown Bag Luncheon

March 6, 2019



Please join us for our next First Wednesday Brown-bag luncheon on **March 6, 2019** to be hosted by Brietta Savoie at 1 p.m. at her home. She will provide dessert and beverages. Please RSVP to let her know you are coming and to get directions if needed. Parking is free in a public parking lot right across the street from the front door. Come and meet both newcomers and old timers. Hope to see you there. All are welcome.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

March Plate Collections

The plate collections for March will be shared with the Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition. The NNJSC helps asylum seekers recently released from detention or otherwise on their own without friends, family, sufficient education or certificates, without job, money, or a place to live. We find a host or family to house the client, provide ESL training as needed, and help the client gain access to medical care, jobs, or education. We provide a case-worker to help dealing with the bureaucracy and to assess the ongoing needs of our clients. We have recently hired a part-time immigration social worker to lend specific expertise to the activities of the case-worker. When the individual feels ready to become more independent (our ultimate goal for our clients), we help with finding a room or apartment for them. We need generous donations to enable our all-volunteer board of trustees to give monthly stipends to hosts and clients.

Thank You!

C.A.M.P. YDP in Paterson thanks our Society for, once again, supporting their program and their efforts to provide safety and enrichment for children in Paterson. Our congregants donated \$1,510.00 from the January plate collection.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Understanding Systemic and Cultural Racism from Our Past to Our Present



This program being offered by the Network for Responsible Public Policy (a terrific local organization) on Thursday, **March 21** at 7:30 at Fairleigh Dickinson. Susanne Fuhrman highly recommends one of their two speakers whom she knows from Ramapo College, Lorna Hines-Cunningham. *This is a rare opportunity.* Please consider attending. Click [here](#) to read flyer.

Recommendations from Racial Justice Committee

The Racial Justice Committee has a list of books and movie recommendations available at the Social Responsibilities table every Sunday.

This month we are particularly recommending the book “White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo. It is published by our own UUA Beacon Press. It has been widely praised and is available in 22 libraries of the BCCLS system. This book is being discussed by other congregations in NJ. Watch for an announcement of USR’s discussion of “White Fragility”.

UU-UNO

For many years, Anita Young has ably served as our liaison to the UU-UNO, but she will be stepping down from this position. On behalf of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood and all its members, I extend our gratitude to Anita; thank you!

Gina Damasco, a new member at USR, serves on the Board of the UU-UNO and so will take on the role of liaison for the moment, as we work to identify someone who might step more permanently into the role. Thank you Gina!

Rev. Sarah, on behalf of USR

UU-UNO

by Gina Damasco

Looking for an opportunity to save the world? When I was a young teen, this is exactly what I was looking to do – but, hard as I tried, all the places I applied to be a force for good in the area of global human rights and humanitarian matters had no opportunities for me. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, even the UN, were simply unreachable because I hadn’t already had experience with an international NGO. Do you feel the same way? Let me tell you about the Unitarian Universalist’s very own NGO, the UU United Nations Office (of which I am a Board Member), and how you can participate in progressive change-making at the international level and the unparalleled opportunities you will find here. The UU-UNO is located right across from United Nations Headquarters in New York City, and does great work that you can (and I believe will absolutely want to) support in a variety of ways.

Continued on page 7

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

First, a little about UNO: from involvement in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation and gender identity issues, the UNO has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level. It promotes the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. Through targeted education, advocacy, and outreach, we engage Unitarian Universalists in support of international cooperation and the work of the UN. At the United Nations, the UNO's advocacy encompasses several aspects of human rights, climate, and peace work, bringing the UU perspective to international justice movements. As we work for human rights and social justice on local and global scales, the UNO has opportunities for people of all ages to be involved and take action. Youth and adults from all over North America gather annually to learn about and take action to address international human rights and social justice issues at the UNO's Intergenerational Spring Seminar coming up soon (this April!). This year, the seminar topic is Equity in Action: Gender in an Intersecting World - a topic that is quite important to UU generally, and to the USR and our local community. Through the Every Child is Our Child program, the UNO partners with the Queen Mothers Association in Eastern Ghana to provide education and health care for children in the region who have been orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. These and other vital activities of the UNO need – and want – our help.

As an interim UNO Envoy, I am looking for youth and adults here at the USR to serve on a UNO Envoy team! There will be many opportunities to lead local action and spread the word about work being done to promote human rights and social justice at the UN in the name of Unitarian Universalism. Local IS global – as evidenced by many global crises (i.e., refugees being branded as “illegals” and “criminals”; environmental regulations being subverted by corporate migration; and human rights abuses and humanitarian crises being subverted by political prerogatives and foreign policy objectives). When we look at our USR mission of service, it is important to think how we can – and should- strive to break down the walls that keep our service confined within our own borders. The greatest problems we face here are not unique to the US, so our efforts shouldn't be either.

There are too many exciting things going on with the UNO, and many new things in the planning stages, to detail here. Please come speak with me, Gina Damasco, at the back of Anderson Hall after services on Sundays through March 2019 for an informal chat to learn more about the UNO and your place in it. You can also find more information online at <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un>



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Recent Event of Interfaith Brotherhood and Sisterhood Committee of Bergen County

The Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood Committee of Bergen County devoted this year's 32nd annual program to "Living The Change: Interfaith Initiatives for Environmental Sustainability". The program took place on President's Day, February 18th, 2019, at Seasons, 644 Pascack Road in Washington Township. There was an interfaith fair as well as an interfaith choir, and a beautiful interpretive Hindu dance group. The keynote speaker was Gopal Patel, a member of Greenfaith, Director of the Bhumi Project at Oxford, and a member of the UN Advisory Council's Task Force on Religion and Development. Gopal is regularly invited to speak at international conferences and forums on the role Hindu teachings can play in addressing climate change. He has previously spoken at the White House, the UN, the British House of Lords, and has been honored for this work by HRH Prince Philip. The event was attended by over 250 people from all faith communities as well as government officials. USR joined this group in 2018 and this is our second event.

Faith communities are very concerned with this issue. Unitarians teach that all life is interconnected. They embrace nature's beauty and are in awe of its power. They care for our environment so that it may sustain life for generations to come. Creating a sustainable way of life is central to their view of a just and compassionate world.

Hindus believe that all living things are sacred because they are part of God, as is the natural world.

Jainism is, in essence, a religion of ecology, of a sustainable lifestyle, and of reverence for life. Their religion's entire emphasis is on life consonant with ecology. *Ahimsa-paramo-dharmah (non-injury to living beings) is one of the basic virtues of Jainism. Practice of non violence is not just limited to humans or animals but is extended to all forms of life. All living beings are regarded as equal, all living things are sacred because they are part of God, as is the natural world.*

In Islam, humans are expected to protect the environment because no other creature is able to perform this task. It is impermissible in Islam to abuse one's rights as khalifa (agents or trustees). According to the hadith, "Act in your life as though you are living forever and act for the Hereafter as if you are dying tomorrow". Being mindful of the needs of current and future generations is an important aspect of piety in Islam.

In the Sikh religion the ideal king is expected to protect not only people but quadrupeds and birds. King Asoka's 5th Pillar Edict stating that he in fact placed various species of wild animals under protection is one of the earliest recorded instances of a specific governmental policy of conservation.

The Catholic Church hierarchy, beginning with the Pope more than two decades ago, has framed climate change as a moral issue involving 'the future of God's creation'. Catholic environmental activists have found support in teachings by Pope Paul VI (Octogesima adveniens, #21) and Pope John Paul II (e.g., the encyclical Centesimus annus, #37-38). Pope Francis has published an encyclical, named "Laudato si' (Be Praised), On the Care of Our Common Home", which aims to inspire everyone - not just Roman Catholics - to protect the Earth.

Protestant Churches are called to exist as representatives of the loving Creator, Sustainer, and Restorer of all creation. They are called to treat creation as sacred, and are called to cling to the true Gospel - for "God so loved the cosmos" (John 3:16) - rejecting the false gospels of our day.

The Sikh scripture declares that the purpose of human beings is to achieve a blissful state and be in harmony with the earth and all creation. In Sikh beliefs, a concern for the environment is part of an integrated approach to life and nature. As all creation has the same origin and end, humans must have consciousness of their place in creation and their relationship with the rest of creation.

Bahá'í Scriptures describe nature as a reflection of the sacred. They teach that nature should be valued and respected, but not worshipped; rather, it should serve humanity's efforts to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization, however, every effort should be made to preserve as much as possible the earth's bio-diversity and natural order in a manner that ensures sustainability and equity into the distant reaches of time.

Jewish tradition is replete with Biblical and Talmudic references to conservation and environmental preservation. Not only are there many citations and legal requirements to protect the land, but air and noise pollution are also proscribed.

The Peace and Justice Committee of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood
Presents...

JUST THE FACTS

Navigating the NEW Digital Landscape

Saturday, April 6, 2019



- Can you tell the difference between fact and fiction?
- How does digital information come to us?
- What does the new digital landscape mean for truth and democracy?

In this two hour hands-on workshop, Library Media Specialist, Lois Parker-Hennion will help you answer these questions and more! Please bring a device (cell phone, tablet, ipad, or laptop). Light refreshments will be served.

Who: Lois Parker-Hennion is a library media specialist and has been teaching digital literacy to high school students for 23 years. She is a member of the Peace & Justice Committee and serves on the Advisory Board for Teaching Tolerance.

What: News Literacy/Digital Literacy workshop

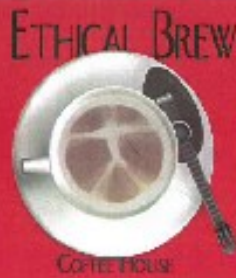
When: 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 6th

Where: The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, 113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ

Why: In order to participate effectively in our democracy, we need to be able to successfully navigate the news that is coming at us.

How: Presentation will include hands-on activities and discussion. Please RSVP using [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/just-the-facts-navigating-the-new-digital-landscape-tickets-56854839355) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/just-the-facts-navigating-the-new-digital-landscape-tickets-56854839355>

Childcare available with 2 weeks advance notice: Please contact: usr.dre1@gmail.com



Sunday, March 31st at 4pm

687 Larch Ave, Teaneck, NJ

Tickets & Info: www.ethicalbrew.org

\$22.50 Adults, \$15 Students in Advance -- \$28 Day of Show

Ethical Brew: A quality blend of live music and social action proudly presents:

Joe Jencks & Judy Kass

The partnered charity for this concert: Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition

Please Note: Concert takes place on Sunday Afternoon @ 4pm



Joe Jencks is an 18-year veteran of the international folk circuit, an award-winning songwriter, and celebrated vocalist based in Chicago. Merging conservatory training with his Irish roots and working-class upbringing, Joe delivers engaged musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove and grit. Having penned several #1 Folksongs including the ever-relevant *Lady of The Harbor*, Jencks is also co-founder of the harmony trio, Brother Sun.

High praise from his musical peers...

"The key to the future is people joining in. The music of Joe Jencks captures this essential spirit. Joe is a fantastic singer who carries on the traditions."

-Pete Seeger

Nashville 501c3



Judy Kass began playing at an early age moving from her classical piano training to accompanying the songs she soon started to write on both keyboard and guitar. Her music reflected the diverse genres and styles of the musicians she listened to from Laura Nyro, Janis Ian, Joni Mitchell, and Neil Young to Miles Davis, Sarah Vaughn, Keith Jarrett and Rachmaninoff.

Judy spent her teens and early twenties making music but graduate studies and other life ventures drew her away from regular performance although she continued to write and play. A passion for music education led her to found a community program (MusicWorks) in 2008 that provides talented students from low income families the opportunity to receive private lessons and mentoring.

The loss of nearly 300 colleagues to the 9/11 terror attacks propelled a shift in focus to healing herself and others and a return to her first love of acoustic music performance.

"Judy Kass seamlessly blends touches of traditional folk, jazz, and blues with evocative, sensitive songwriting."

-Carter Smith, Common Ground Community Concerts

For More Information including tickets, photos, bios & videos: www.EthicalBrew.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:30 RE Start Up/ Conf. Rm 4:30 Puppet Show/ Dinner/Fellowship
3 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 1:00 Art Reception/ Anderson	4 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 BOT Meet- ing/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	5 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	6	7 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	8	9
10 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi	11 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	12 7:00 CYRE Mtg/ Conf. Rm	13 7:00 SRC Coun- cil Mtg/Conf. Rm	14 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	15	16 6:00 Fellowship Feast/Anderson and Fellowship
17 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Reproductive Justice/Upstairs Mtg Rm 11:45 P&J/Conf. Rm 3:00 NJSO Event/ Auction item/Anderson	18 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Sunday Ser- vice/Conf. Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	19 7:30 Connec- tions/Youth Rm	20 7:30 One Book USR	21 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	22 8:00 Society Café Concert/ Anderson	23 6:00 Fellowship Feast SNOW DATE
24 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Environmental Justice/Upstairs Mtg Rm 11:30 Adult RE/ Anderson	25 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship	26	27	28 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship	29	30 9:00 Safety Train- ing/Fellowship Rm
31 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Adult RE/ Anderson						

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Website www.uuridgewood.org

Board of Trustees

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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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the
**UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD**

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