



May 2019

MINISTRY COUNCIL

CIRCLE OF LIFE

May 11th Memorial Service For Bob Demarest. Please join us in celebrating the life of Bob Demarest on Saturday, May 11th from 1-5 PM at The Joe Jefferson Club, 29 East Saddle River Road, Saddle River, NJ 07458. [Click here](#) for more information.



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. **Early registration ends May 1st, costs will increase after then.** 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.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

2nd Annual Film Festival

We're doing it again! The **Second Annual North Jersey Human Rights Film Festival** will take place Friday, **May 10** at 7 pm and Saturday, **May 11** at 7 pm, in Anderson. Short films and documentaries from around the world that highlight social justice issues will be shown. Cost is \$10 per screening, payable at the door. Cinema refreshments will be available. Visit www.uridgewood.org/film-festival/ or call 201-444-6225 for more information and film listings. The festival is part of the Ridgewood Guild International Film Festival Consortium. (This event is not recommended for children).

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

2019 USR Grants

The Planned Giving/Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce the USR grants for 2019. The applications were both very diversified and exciting and they truly represent the goals and aspirations of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. The grants, totaling \$12,000, were awarded to:

- **\$550** to Gina Damasco to attend The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO)'s 2019 Intergenerational Spring Seminar, *Equity in Action: Gender in an Intersecting World*.
- **\$2,000** to the Racial Justice Committee requested by Carolyn Musser. The funds are to host Project: A 2020 Election Event: Conversation with Ari Berman, author of "Give Us The Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America."
- **\$2,400** to the Paterson Music Project requested by Susanne Fuhrman. The project provides intensive music instruction in the form of an after-school program and summer camp, enabling Paterson students to change the trajectory of their lives.
- **\$2,700** to the Paterson Alliance play requested by Inge Spungen. The play—*Life, Death, Life Again: Children Sentenced to Die in Prison* is a documentary play by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg, which features the words of children sentenced to die, as well as the grandson of a murder victim who forgave the girl who killed his grandmother. It will be followed by a panel discussion to contemplate how juvenile justice and our justice system impact children.
- **\$2,500** to SHARE to replenish the Ritter Fund, requested by Don Campolo. The Ritter Fund is used to offset 20% of the cost of the neediest residents.
- **\$1,000** to the Northern NJ Sanctuary requested by Elizabeth Ames. The Sanctuary provides assistance to asylum applicants in the northern NJ area. The funds are being used to assist in the hiring of a part-time social worker to help these families.
- **\$850** to the RE program requested by Jeanne Nametz. The RE program supported the Center for Food Action's Snak Pack Program that provides food to school children of Bergen County who suffer from hunger and food insecurity.

The grants are made possible by the investment returns of the Endowment Fund. If you wish to provide support to the Endowment fund, please consider the fund for your annual charitable contributions and also as a beneficiary in your estate planning and will. If you wish to learn more about estate planning or the Endowment Fund, please reach out to Jeff Cagan, chair.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon

Please join us at the next First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon on May 1, 2019 to be hosted by Judith Brauburger at 1 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. Come and meet both newcomers and old timers. Car pooling can be arranged. Hope to see you there.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

May Shared Plate Collection

The Paterson Alliance will be the recipient of the May shared plate collections. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

The City of Paterson is only minutes away from Ridgewood, and is a culturally diverse city, with residents representing 72 ethnic groups and speaking 35 languages. It is also an impoverished city, with 37% of families with children at the federal poverty level. Yet there is a spirit and pride in the history and diversity of the city that is palpable. There is a belief that the new administration, and the return of local control to schools will bring a renaissance to Paterson.

The Paterson Alliance brings together more than 70 nonprofit organizations and others who care about Paterson's future. We work together; sharing ideas and resources, knowing that by combining our knowledge and experience and by including our neighbors in the conversation, we create a collective impact greater than each of us could do individually. We offer programs that highlight issues that impact our neighbors, such as the opioid crisis, immigration and the 2020 census, and work together to create solutions.

The **2020 Census** offers an opportunity for Paterson to have a complete count of our population. Paterson's Mayor Sayegh and The Paterson Alliance formed a Complete Count Committee to provide publicity and information about the benefits to the City if residents complete the census. Other collaborations include our **Full Service Community Schools** Initiative, the **Paterson Early Childhood Coalition** and the **Paterson Alliance Apprenticeship Program** for high school students. The Paterson Alliance provides a forum for seven Full Service Community Schools to work with nonprofits to collectively and positively impact the schools by providing opportunities to share services, best practices and proven solutions. The Paterson Early Childhood Coalition, a group of more than 20 Alliance members and stakeholders, has created a map showing where the children are, where the preschool and childcare spaces are and where gaps exist. Outreach to families includes a website (in four languages), a Facebook group to share information, navigators and parent cafés. Navigators are local community members who go into their neighborhoods to share information in the languages of the community, and build relationships and trust as they tell about how children can thrive with a strong start. Parent Cafés bring parents together with service providers to discuss needs and resources that can be solutions. In the first year of our campaign, we increased Pre-K enrollment from 70 to 77% of eligible children.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

Plate Collection application deadline – May 8, 2019

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. In September 2018 the shared plate collection was begun. SRC continues to manage the applications and decisions regarding the applications. The deadline to submit applications for the next cycle is Wednesday, **May 8**. 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 or available at the SRC table. 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.

May 5th Service

Rev. Sarah's service on Sunday, **May 5th**, will focus on issues of racism and oppression using the book "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo. Services will be followed by a brief coffee hour with discussion starting immediately after. We will have pizza for people staying for the discussion. Childcare will be available.



Please plan to 1) come to the service, 2) eat, and 3) stay for the discussion. AND, please try to read the book. It has been very favorably reviewed: is #2 on the NY-Times non-fiction best seller list and is being discussed now by other NJ Unitarian congregations. It is in 22 libraries in the BCCLS system.

The Environmental Justice Committee would like to make you aware of local opportunities to recycle Styrofoam packing material (no food containers or packing peanuts, please):

May 18: Ridgewood Styrofoam Drive, 10 a.m. Graydon Parking Lot
 June 8: Leonia Styrofoam Drive
 June 15: Oradell Styrofoam Drive

More details will be available at Facebook/Sustainable Bergen County Hub and Facebook/GreenRidgewood, or contact Jan Bottcher at jan.bottcher@gmail.com.

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

NORTH JERSEY HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL

Announcing the Second Annual North Jersey Human Rights Film Festival, to be held at The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ.

Two evening showings:

Friday, May 10, 2019

at 7pm

Saturday May 11, 2019

at 7pm

\$10 entrance fee per showing

Visit our webpage for updates including film schedule:

www.uuridgewood.org/film-festival/

Contact us at usrfilmfestival@gmail.com

Location:

113 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Phone 201-444-6225
www.uuridgewood.org



Proud Member
of the
Ridgewood Guild
International
Film Festival
Consortium

the
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | 1 7:30 Nominating Comm/ Upstairs Mtg Rm | 2 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Racial Justice Discussion/Large RE Room | 6 12:00 Women's Clergy/Conf Rm 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 BOT Mtg/Conf Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship | 7 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm | 8 | 9 2:00 Covenant Grp/Conf Rm 7:00 Covenant Grp/Conf Rm 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship | 10 7:00 USR Film Festival/ Anderson | 11 7:00 USR Film Festival/Anderson |
| 12 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Discussion with Rev. Sarah | 13 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship | 14 2:00 Covenant Grp/Conf Rm 7:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 CYRE Mtg/Conf. Rm | 15 1:00 Covenant Grp/Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:00 Racial Justice/Conf Rm | 16 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship | 17 | 18 8:30 Reorganization Mtg/Fellowship |
| 19 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:45 P&J Mtg/Upstairs Mtg. Rm 12:00 Town Hall Mtg/ Fellowship | 20 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:00 Sunday Service Comm/Conf Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship | 21 7:30 Connections/Youth Rm | 22 7:30 One Book USR | 23 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10:00 Service - Rev. Sarah Lenzi 11:30 Environmental Justice Mtg/Upstairs Mtg Rm | 27 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Meditation/Fellowship | 28 | 29 7:00 SRC Council/Conf Rm | 30 7:30 Adult Choir/ Fellowship | 31 | |

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