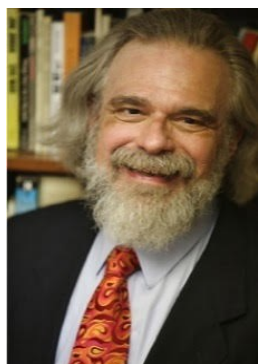


Unitarian

Society of Ridgewood

From the Interim Minister's Mailbox

With the start of August, the end of summer is in sight and the resumption of a full schedule of services and activities at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood will soon be at hand. I hope that all of you are enjoying the summer, whether you are at home or traveling, whether you are working or vacationing.

During the summer life goes on. There have been joys and sorrows in your lives and mine. Birth and death, challenge and achievement, joy and sorrow -- all are part of this summer, for all are part of life.

The issues that call to our consciences do not take a vacation: immigration rights, economic inequity, the war against public education, the excessive use of force by some (not all) police departments against Black and Brown people, the criminalization of a woman's right to choose, and the epidemic of homicides and suicides with firearms that are not necessary for "a well-regulated militia."

Still, it is good that we have some respite over the summer. For me it is a time to read books in larger chunks, go to the beach, and visit family and friends. For me, it takes about two weeks of not working for me to relax enough to relax. And now, two weeks before returning to the office, I am writing to you from my vacation, which so far I have spent mostly at home. Here I have been working on my house and recovering from hand surgery. With great difficulty I have tried not to do both at the same time.

Looking forward to the remainder of the summer, I am thrilled that two of your former ministers will be speaking on Sundays during August: Terry Ellen on August 21st and Sarah Lammert on August 28th. What a finale to a summer of fine guest speakers!

I will be back in the office beginning August 16th and in the pulpit on September 4th (Labor Day weekend). My first Sunday Message of the 2016-17 year will be "A Working Religion for Working People."

Looking toward the fall, I expect the second year of the Intentional Transitional Ministry to be as productive as the first. Your Ministerial Search Committee is hard at work. Your Board of Trustees is ready to resume regular meetings. The Transition Team will be working with me in support of a continued healthy transition. The staff continues to do its work and do it better all the time.

It is important that the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood thrive. It is important for its members, for Unitarian Universalism, and for the local community and wider society. USR is a place for safety, freedom, and spiritual growth in a time when we need all three.

See you in August!

Rev Dr TJ

Minister's direct office line: 201-345-9587

Cell: 646-515-4729

Email: usr.minister@gmail.com



Reflections

Happy summer! I hope you are all finding some time to enjoy the outdoors, spend time with family and friends, have adventures, and relax. I am, though I am also looking forward to being all together again come September. I have been so lucky to engage in lots of professional development and make connections with many colleagues so far this summer, in addition to planning a great program for the coming year.

Most recently, I participated in an excellent workshop on multigenerational worship. I learned a lot that I hope to share with you in the coming year, partially through our new Friday night Family Worship Services! These will be offered on the third Friday of each month, beginning October 21. Stay tuned for more details. Also inspired by this workshop, I will be holding a Blessing of the Backpacks on Thursday, September 1 at 6:30pm. I hope many of the children will be there to have their backpacks blessed and to receive a backpack

charm so that they may carry the love of our community with them into their school lives.

One component of the multigenerational worship workshop was to create a worship service with a team of four religious educators. My team rose to the challenge of creating a worship service that could follow a difficult week of violence and racial tension in our country, such as the one that had just occurred, with the deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Lorne Ahrens, Michael Krol, Michael Smith, Brent Thompson, and Patrick Zamarripa. I will take this opportunity to share a couple of resources from the worship service we created.

The first resource is a children's book called *A Terrible Thing Happened* by Margaret Holmes, illustrated by Cary Pillo. This is a great book to read with children who witnessed something terrible, whether on TV, in a newspaper, or in real life. It addresses the kinds of emotions they may be having, and how to deal with those emotions.

The second resource is this lovely *Prayer for Compassion* by Elizabeth Tarbox. I hope it brings you some peace, as it did me.

Spirit of Life, I give thanks for the opportunities to love that present themselves in the turmoil of life. When the light catches the tears in another's eyes, where hands are held and there are moments without words, let us be present then, and alive to the possibility of changing. Let us seek to make another's wellbeing the object of our concern. Let us seek to be present to another's pain, to bathe another's wounds, hear another's sadness, celebrate another's success, and allow the other's story to change our own. Let us stand in the morning on damp grass, hear the syllables of bird song, and fill up on sweet air that rolls over oceans and continents. Let us look up at the stars and the planets that fill the night sky with majesty. Let us witness the first fresh buds of spring amid the brown sticks of winter. And for all this, let us be grateful. Let us not defend ourselves against the discomfort of unruly emotion, nor seek to close down our hearts for fear a new love will come to shake our foundations. Let us instead be open to discovering a new way of seeing an old problem, or appreciating the perfection of a seashell, or the possibility of friendship. For in giving ourselves to what we do not understand, we receive life's blessings, and in taking care of another, we are cared for.

I will be around for the rest of the summer and am happy to meet and talk with any of you - just send me an email or give me a call. Otherwise, I'll see you in September.

In faith & love,

Johanna

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



Save the Date for Crafts in Ridgewood

The Crafts in Ridgewood event is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year on November 18th and 19th. **Mark your calendars!** We will have plenty of amazing gift ideas for your holiday shopping with new and favorite crafters. This event was started 25 years ago as part of the Society's ongoing Social Responsibilities tradition. It provides additional funding for Community Action with a Ministry for People (C.A.M.P.), an after school and preschool program in Paterson.

Our dedication to the C.A.M.P. program began 38 years ago and continues thanks to the wonderful volunteers from our congregation who make time to tutor students, teach classes, sit on task force committees and work with Citizens for Swimming.

Please help us celebrate in November. Admission is free and 25% of the vendors' profits go to C.A.M.P. If you'd like to be part of the fun, please contact Marcy Cagan. There are a variety of volunteer possibilities ranging from a one-hour commitment to being part of the team. We'd love to have you.

Volunteers Needed for Thrift Shop

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood assigned week at The Community Thrift Shop is coming up. This year it will be from **Tuesday, August 9th to Friday, August 12th**. We will need two volunteers each morning (10:00-12:00) and afternoon (1:00-3:00). If interested, please contact Peter Duran.



SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

An Update from the USR Ministerial Search Committee

We'd like to thank all of the Members and Friends who took the time to complete the congregational survey in July. The deadline was July 31st. Results will be tabulated and shared with the congregation in late fall.

The Ministerial Search Committee is currently working to schedule a series of cottage meetings during the month of September. These small group meetings will provide further opportunities for the congregation to share their preferences, values and aspirations in a small group setting. Watch for the schedule in the next newsletter, and please sign up to attend one of these important meetings.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 23, 2016

Workshop: Beyond Categorical Thinking

The Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) program helps UU congregations examine ways they can be more inclusive in their consideration of ministerial candidates. Please mark your calendar and watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, the USR Ministerial Search Committee:

Elyse Pleasic (chair), Mike Azzara, Mary Byron, Don Campolo, Steve Gregoire, Sally Lewis and Carol Wolf.

FROM THE BOARD



Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice in America: What Can We Do This Summer? - August 2016

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

- Donate money, 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 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.
- October 15, 2016 – schedule time to attend the **UULMNJ Issues Conference** (in Morristown) with Chris Crass. Chris is a white anti-racist UU and author of **Towards the “Other America”, ANTI-RACIST RESOURCES FOR WHITE PEOPLE TAKING ACTION FOR BLACK LIVES MATTER.**

Summer Reading Suggestions, Websites and other Resources

- Read **"Just Mercy"** by Bryan Stevenson, the 2015-16 UUA Common Read, for discussion on September 23. Confirmed discussion leader: Louis Acevedo, Deputy Public Defender, Bergen County
- Barber, William J. II & Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. **The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics and the Rise of a New Justice Movement**, Beacon Press, 2016
- Morrison, Toni. **Beloved**. Vintage Books, A Division of Random House, 1987, 2004
- Skloot, Rebecca. **THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS**, Crowne Publishing Group, A Division of Random House, 2010
- **"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](#)
- **Service of the Living Tradition**, UUA General Assembly 2016. Sermon by Rev. Bill Sinkford, former UUA president speaking about racial justice and the UUA <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2016/worship/slt>
- **Rev. William Barber brings crowd to its feet at racial justice rally** (General Assembly 2016, <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/uuaga2016publicwitness>)

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

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

One Book USR

Some suggestions for your summer reading include *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* by Amy Ellis Nutt. A couple adopts twin boys and one of them later becomes Nicole.

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson—The memoir personalizes the struggle against injustice in the story of one activist lawyer.

Our next meeting is **September 28th** at 7:30 p.m. We will be discussing *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. This exciting and fact-packed book shows the seque between the brothers love of bicycles and aerial locomotion. We will also compare this book to *The Boys in the Boat*.

Congregational Dinners

October 22, 2016



POTLUCK DINNER

We are looking for USR Members who will enjoy being a HOST for any size group you can seat around your table on Saturday, October 22nd. Hosting involves calling a list of people who have already signed up to attend a dinner, so they'll say YES! You then ask or tell them what you would like them to contribute to the meal. You can prepare whatever you wish, or nothing beyond hosting itself. It's your choice. We will provide you with a model invitation and menu, plus other suggestions that help. This is one of USR's favorite events because it's an opportunity to get to know people better in a cozy setting. People will sign up in September to be guests.

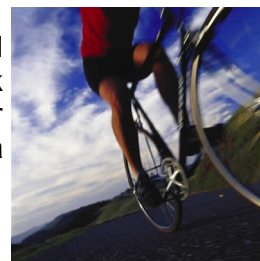
Please email your reply to Holly Nolan or phone her as soon as possible. Thank you so much for hosting.

First Wednesday Brown-bag Luncheon

Please join us for the next First Wednesday Brown-bag luncheon on **August 3, 2016** to be hosted by Mary Boutin 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. All are welcome.

Green Sanctuary Team Survey

The outcome of the Green Sanctuary team survey was overwhelmingly positive, and we have now purchased and set up a bike rack next to the Reeb House garage. Thank you for your support. Make good use of the new addition to our grounds by riding your bike to services and otherwise! If you have any questions, please contact Laura Lander.



MINISTRY COUNCIL

Upcoming Services

August 7th	<p>“Songs We Don’t Sing” - Rachael Hayes, Seminarian</p> <p>How are we bearers of history without realizing it? The hymnal contains lots of songs we don’t sing, but understanding their history points the way for action in the present. Musicians: Ron Levy, piano; Richard Hobson, bass baritone</p>
August 14th	<p>“Being Unitarian Universalist When Black Lives Matter” - Jessica Halperin, Seminarian</p> <p>As a predominantly white, creedless but faithful community, how do we Unitarian Universalists find meaning and purpose working for racial justice? What is ours to do as people of faith and privilege? Our faith tradition can help us find solace with out ignorance and meaning amidst violence, if we let it. Musician: Ron Levy, piano</p>
August 21st	<p>“What Now?” - Rev. Terry Ellen</p> <p>After sixteen further years, a couple things are most important to me for this voyage we are on. The first is the vastness we each and all manifest, source of our dignity and our humility. The second is the climate challenge we now face to do the right thing for the vulnerable, the children and those coming, and the myriad species. Musician: Ron Levy, piano</p>
August 28th	<p>Rev. Sarah Lammert,</p> <p>Musician: Ron Levy, piano</p>

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We are saddened to hear of the loss of Patrick Cesard. Patrick Cesard, son of Mary Alice and Claude Cesard died suddenly on July 7th at the age of 51. Born in France, Patrick graduated from the University of Delaware with an engineering degree, and, with his wife Sandra Lynn, raised three children: Connor, Jillian and Jeremy who live in Leesburg, Virginia.

USR long-time members will remember Jake ten Hove who died in Murietta, CA on June 26th. His son, Rev. Jacob ten Hove (Jaco) spent the last few months in California with Jake who was in hospice care. During that period of time Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove kept the co-ministry of Jaco and Barbara going on Bainbridge Island, WA. Barbara and Jaco who have done several services here at USR will retire in January.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL



Reproductive Justice Committee News Whole Women's Health vs. Hellerstedt – SCOTUS decision

Save the Date: September 15, 2016– Viewing of documentary TRAPPED

This summer was off to an exciting and triumphant start for supporters of the Reproductive Justice Movement when the Supreme Court handed down a 5-3 decision in our favor regarding the Whole Women's Health vs. Hellerstedt case. The landmark decision solidified that two provisions in Texas HB2 (required physicians who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital and required abortion clinics in the state to have facilities comparable to an ambulatory surgical center) place a substantial obstacle in the path of women seeking an abortion, constitute an undue burden on abortion access, and therefore violate the Constitution.

Legislation that places restrictions on abortion clinics (but not any other form of health facility) are commonly referred to as TRAP laws: Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers. TRAP laws aim to shut down clinics in the anti-choice's fight to end abortion and take away a woman's right to choice by placing extensive requirements and regulations on clinics and doctors, none of which have any correlation with the actual safety of the patients. The ripple effect of TRAP laws is chilling. When Texas HB2 went into action in 2013, the number of open clinics in the state of TX went from 44 clinics statewide down to 13 over the course of approximately a year. Women needing help were faced with obstacles as they tried to access constitutionally protected health care. From driving hundreds of miles to the closest available clinic to having their appointment canceled when their clinic closes due to the law, Texas women were paying the price of restrictive legislation. Similarly, the demand on the few open clinics was daunting; due to clinic closures, the few open clinics had huge influxes of patients, and were forced to turn people away due to capacity. Many people had to wait weeks for appointments, increasing their costs exponentially by the day. As expected, women sought care over the United States border due to the lack of support domestically. Texas HB2 did monstrous damage to the people of Texas, and thankfully, the Supreme Court's decision deeming HB2 unconstitutional shed light on the injustice of TRAP laws nationally.

However, the June 27th Supreme Court decision is not the end of a battle; it is a victory amidst a series of battles. Dangerous and oppressive legislation continues to be introduced and enacted. According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, of the 251 abortion-restriction bills that were introduced nationwide, 75% were based on faulty information or actual lies.

On Thursday, September 15th at 7:15 pm, the Reproductive Justice invites you to learn about TRAP laws through a screening of the documentary TRAPPED, followed by a speaker from the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR). CRR is the organization that took on the Texas case. On Sept 15th, please join the RJ Committee as we hear from a CRR leader who fought (and continues to fight) on the front lines for access to safe and legal abortion care. Details to follow soon. Please contact Carol Loscalzo or Susanne Fuhrman with any questions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

UULMNJ NEWS

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry of NJ (UULMNJ) represents all of the UU congregations in NJ including USR on social justice issues and advocates for positions taken by its task forces in Trenton. Many of you will remember that Rev. Craig Hirshberg was the Executive Director for 5 years. She recently retired in early July. UULMNJ has welcomed its new Executive Director, Rev. Rob Gregson. Rev. Gregson has many years of experience in the fields of nonprofit management, social justice activism and the liberal ministry. Rev. Gregson's most recent professional experience was to serve as co-founder and first Executive Director of [SimpleGifts: Unitarian Centre for Social Action](#) in East London, United Kingdom. This innovative program, located in an area with the highest child poverty rate in the UK and facing intense public scrutiny as a majority Muslim immigrant community, served over 150+ children, parents, elders and recent immigrants each week.

Writes Rev. Gregson, "I look forward to working alongside the many talented volunteers and affiliated UU congregations who make up the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey. I inherit a social justice ministry in the Garden State that is at once daring and forgiving, pastoral and prophetic, where the joy of being together in our congregations is also informed by our concern for the poor and all those living life on the margins. I invite you to join with me and many others as we raise our voices in Trenton and across the state in service to the larger mission of bringing ever more hope, ever more joy and ever more justice into this corner of the world we call 'home.'"

SAVE THE DATE

The next meeting of the UULMNJ is the Issues Conference on Saturday, **October 15** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Morristown UU Fellowship. The featured speaker will be Chris Crass, a UU anti-racist activist who wrote **Towards the "Other America", ANTI-RACIST RRESOURCES FOR WHITE PEOPLE TAKING ACTION FOR BLACK LIVES MATTER**. The issues conference also offers people the opportunity to join task force meetings to learn about the work that UULMNJ is doing.

ROHN HEIN TESTIFIES BEFORE THE SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

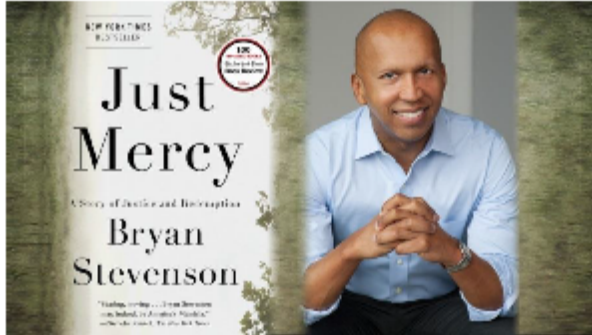
The UULMNJ website reports the following: "On Monday, June 20 the co-chair of our Dismantling Racism Group, Rohn Hein, provided testimony before the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee in support of SB-677 that would require a racial and ethnic impact statement for certain bills and regulations affecting sentencing. In part Rohn said "Over the last forty years as our country has attempted to deal with the huge damage done to our society by the use of illicit drugs, legislation has been passed at both the national and state level with no regard to how disproportionately they would affect people of color. The main goal was to eradicate the problem and punish those we thought were the bad guys. The unintended consequences of these imprudent measures were a burgeoning prison population that is predominantly made up of blacks and Hispanics. As the bills were being discussed, no one even raised a question as to the final result of these actions. No one even raised their hand and said, "Let's go slow and take a look at how this plays out."

We at the UU Legislative Ministry are raising our collective hands and saying, "Let's take our time and do our homework this time. Why we should be in such a hurry to pass legislation without a conclusive look at how we are acting racially. Too many people are saying that we live in a color blind society and that we don't need this scrutiny. We say, if everyone believes that all sectors of our communities are being protected, what harm does it cause for us to make a rational, racial impact statement on each piece of legislation that this august body decides upon. Let's not make a rush to judgment when patience and understanding could serve us better in creating an atmosphere of harmony and peace together."

The Racial Justice Committee at USR offered an action at the Action Table about this bill. Over 60 people sent letters to legislators in support of this bill. On 6/27/16 the bill was voted out of committee.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

BOOK DISCUSSION: Friday, September 23, 2016 Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson



"A searing, moving and infuriating memoir. Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America's Mandela. For decades he has fought judges, prosecutors and police on behalf of those who are impoverished, black or both. Injustice is easy not to notice when it affects people different from ourselves; that helps explain the obliviousness of our own generation to inequity today... We need to wake up."

Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*

Date: Friday, September 23, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Unitarian Society of
Ridgewood (Fellowship Room)
113 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

www.uuridgewood.org

Free child care available with 2 weeks notice. Requests can be sent to Ann Pareti at usr.membership1@gmail.com.

UNITARIAN SOCIETY
of RIDGEWOOD

Stevenson's memoir from his work representing people on death row gives a powerful voice to the potential for mercy to redeem us, and provides a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice.

The Racial Justice Committee invites you to read Stevenson's memoir and join in a discussion based on the book's content. Reading the book is encouraged, yet not required.

Discussion will be led by **Louis Acevedo**, Deputy Public Defender, Bergen County.

Citizens for Swimming



We need your help! Every August since 1968, Graydon Pool has hosted summer day campers from Paterson for 3 afternoons a week for 3 consecutive weeks. These 9 days at Graydon provide a cool respite for these city kids with little, if any, opportunity to swim in their own community. Plus, thanks to the Ridgewood YMCA, the children receive swim instruction every day, providing them with water safety skills that will help keep them safe for a lifetime. This year, C4S needs \$110 per child to host the child for the full program. We need donations of money, new swimsuits, towels, and volunteers to make this work. Checks should be made payable to Citizens for Swimming. Checks can be left in C4S mailbox in Reeb. There will also be a drop-off box for donated items on the front porch at Reeb. Click [here](#) for more details. Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	2	3 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writers Grp/ Conf. Rm	4	5	6
7 10:00 Service	8 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	9	10 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writer's Grp/ Youth Rm	11	12 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm	13
14 10:00 Service	15 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	16	17 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writer's Grp/ Conf. Rm	18	19	20
21 10:00 Service	22 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	23	24 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writer's Grp/ Conf. Rm	25	26 1:00 LIFFT/ Fellowship Rm	27
28 10:00 Service	29 12:30 Monday Lecture Series/ Fellowship Rm 7:45 Zen Medita- tion/Fellowship Rm	30	31 7:00 Ministerial Search Mtg/ Upstairs Mtg Rm 7:30 Writer's Grp/ Conf. Rm			

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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.



113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450



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