



PEACEMAKING

Chicago UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ)
Peace Task Force

Welcome!

In this first issue of PEACEMAKING, our occasional newsletter of resources for peace building, we introduce you to Peace Circles. We also provide contact information for peace groups readers may contact.

Peace Circles

Searching for ways to respond to violence, crime, and intolerance in our communities and around the globe, some church members and congregations have begun to use Peace Circles, a restorative justice technique.

Peace Circles developed out of a Native American tradition. They emphasize human interconnectedness and understanding and use collaboration and active listening to reach consensus. Peace Circles can focus on healing, community building, conflict resolution, or reintegration. For example, members of Evanston Unitarian church used a peace circle to help its members process their grief and anger following recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

Peace Circles and other restorative justice approaches have been used in Chicago Public Schools since 1996, including at Englewood, Robeson, and Senn High Schools, and in some charter schools, and in Evanston schools.

Members of the Unitarian Church of Evanston and other residents have been trained and use Peace Circles. Training is available through Alternatives, Inc http://alternativesyouth.org/restorative_justice/training and through the Community Justice for Youth Institute in Chicago, <http://cjyiorq.publishpath.com>

Chicago Area Peace Organizations

- *Albany Park / North Park / Mayfair Neighbors for Peace and Justice, Phone 773-250-3335
- *Chicago Area Peace Action <http://chipeaceaction.org/>
- *Southsiders for Peace <http://www.southsidersforpeace.org>
- *Voices for Creative Nonviolence - <http://vcnv.org>
- *Chicago Chapter, War Resisters League, <http://wrlchicago.org>
- *West Suburban Faith Based Peace Coalition www.faithpeace.org

National/ International Peace Groups

- *American Friends Service Committee www.afsc.org (also Chgo ofc)
- *AVAAZ <https://avaaz.org>
- *CODEPINK www.codepink.org
- *Fellowship of Reconciliation www.forusa.org
- *Jewish Voice for Peace - <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org>
- *Just Foreign Policy www.justforeignpolicy.org
- *Peace Action <http://www.peace-action.org>
- *United for Peace and Justice <http://www.unitedforpeace.org>
- *Win Without War www.winwithoutwar.org

Unitarian-Universalist Organizations

- *Unitarian Universalist Association www.uua.org
- *UUA International Engagement <http://www.uua.org/international>
- *Unitarian Universalist Service Committee www.uusc.org
- *Midwest Regional UUs for Social Justice – Peace Task Force – contact Chair Jane Bannor, jbannor@sbcglobal.net

The UUSJ Peace Task Force does not necessarily support or recommend all groups named, rather, we encourage you to join us in considering the goals and actions of each and then decide how you wish to participate in the work for peace at local, national, and international levels, both as an individual and with your congregation or through the national UU organizations.

Please submit suggestions to: Linda Groetzinger at Lgroetzinger@yahoo.com