

UUSJ Newsletter - Winter 2009

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

An affiliate of the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council

Andrew T. Fisher, Editor & Communications Director

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Chair's Corner:

It is easy to participate in UUSJ! In fact, you are doing so by reading this newsletter. But there are many other ways to participate such as:

1. Join or attend a task force meeting. See the reports from our three task forces in this newsletter to find out how to do that.
2. Form a new Task Force. In addition to our three current task forces, we could have others, such as a Gender TF, Children's Issues, Global Issues, Etc. A new Task Force would require at least five members, representing at least three CAUUC churches, UUSJ Board approval, and regular meetings (usually three or more per year). Contact UUSJ if you would like to start a new task force.
3. Attend one of our public programs. UUSJ holds three to six programs yearly open to the public.
4. Join the Action Alert system which involves keeping you informed on social justice with several options for taking action on these issues if you so desire. Contact UUSJ and we'll send you a sign-up form.
5. Ask us to meet at your church. We hold our board and Task Force meetings at CAUUC area churches, or we can send a speaker to your church. Contact UUSJ to discuss arrangements.
6. Tell us about social justice actions and events in your church. Whenever possible and appropriate, we will announce your event at our meetings (we hold 12 to 15 meetings per year) and/or in our newsletter (three issues yearly). UUSJ Board and task force members frequently attend these events to support CAUUC churches.
7. And yes, we'll take your money! UUSJ is a 501(C)3 organization and contributions are tax deductible.

Gene Horcher (773) 561-5296

email: horcher@att.net

Chicago UUSJ & CAUUC Board
present

Adam Gerhardstein and Susan Leslie

“Now is the Time!”

Organizing for Effective Public
Advocacy
A workshop

Saturday, February 21, 2009
9 am – 3 pm

Third Unitarian Church

www.thirdunitarianchurch.org

301 N. Mayfield Ave.

Chicago, IL

\$10 reg. fee includes materials, morning
munchies, and lunch

Register at info@cauuc.org

More info at: <http://CAUUC.org>

Report of the Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness

The Task Force is sponsoring a community forum entitled
THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS AFFECT ON HOMELESSNESS
which will take place on
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2009
FROM 3 TO 5 P.M.
AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
(IN HULL CHAPEL)
5650 S. WOODLAWN AVE.,
CHICAGO**

It will consist of a panel presentation, followed by a Question and Answer session.

Panelist to include:

- Al Hofeld, Jr.— Cofounder of the South Side Credit Union and attorney assisting families facing foreclosure.
- Alexander Sharp II, Executive Director of Protestant for the Common Good
- Richard Gilliam— Community organizer with Metropolitan Tenants Organization
- A staff member with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

- Economist (still in development)

For more information you may write or phone Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-643-8061.

Home and Hope Booster Grant

At it's meeting on Oct. 11, the Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness approved the nomination of the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church, for unreimbursed expenses in connection with it's Bridge Communities Partnership, in which it, for two years, rents an apartment, pays the utilities, and provides mentoring to a family that was homeless and is now, with help, on the road to economic independence.

Since October, 2006, DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church (DUUC) has supported a single mother and her two children, including providing three mentors, and maintaining a 6-member Bridge Communities Housing Team in support of the project. DUUC is continuing in the program, with a new family, starting Nov. 2008. The church's annual commitment (expense) to the partnership is \$9,180, with Bridge Communities picking up the balance of the expenses. In the past year DUUC raised \$7,160 toward it's obligation, including \$3,750 from an endowment fund, \$2,387 from special collections, and \$1,043 from Sleepout sponsorships. DUUC's volunteer time, devoted to the project in the last year, totaled 546 hours, including 300 hours of mentoring time, 96 hours in time devoted to the Housing Team, and remaining 150

hours devoted to fundraising for the project.

We congratulate DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church for its substantial volunteer involvement and financial support for its Bridge Communities partnership. As the result of the pledges collected in connection with this Home and Hope Booster Grant nomination, UUSJ was able to send a grant of \$500 to the DuPage U.U. Church, in support of its Bridge Communities Partnership.

Other

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) is sponsoring a national conference, entitled *Revisioning Economics*, April 1-5, 2009, which will be held at a conference center in Rowe, Massachusetts. The cost to attend the full conference, including housing, is \$400. You may learn more about the conference by visiting the U.U.J.E.C. website.

During the last few months of the current Congress this task force did not initiate any new Action Alerts, but expects to do so regularly once the new Congress convenes.

The next meeting of this task force will take place on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., at Third Unitarian Church, 301 N. Mayfield, Chicago. All are welcome.

Allan Lindrup, Co-Chair
Uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-643-8061

Ron Chew, Co-Chair
Ronkarla@aol.com or 708-524-9695

UUSJ Environmental Task Force Report

Action Alert: We sent out one to US House members encouraging them to support much more environmental legislation with the new Democratic Obama administration coming into office. More specifically, we seek: "major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and to get 20% of our electricity from clean, renewable sources within a decade, while creating many new green economy jobs to help jump start economic recovery."

Educational Inserts: We've completed and mailed one by Gene Horcher about the advantages of tap water over bottled water and another by Allan Lindrup on Water Filter Issues. Another one by Mary Alice Masonic about CFL bulbs soon will be mailed.

Program on Great Lakes Compact: Our Task force presented Frances Canonizado from the Alliance for the Great Lakes with a program on the Great Lakes Compact at the annual UUSJ meeting on 12/7/08. This agreement by all the US states bordering the Great Lakes and Canada prohibits piping, trucking, selling, or in any way removing more water from the Great Lakes basin than naturally falls there by rain. It also protects this huge fresh water resource from sewage, toxic waste and any more invasive salt water species such as zebra mussels. After the program, she answered questions.

Next meeting is Sunday, 2/1/09 from 3 to 5PM at the Unity Temple, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park. All are welcome.

With any questions, contact:

Andrew T. Fisher – Chair
847-492-1055 or fisher.a@sbcglobal.net

UUSJ Peace Task Force Report

The Peace Task Force held a successful forum – “Prospects for Peace after the Election” – Saturday 11-22-08 at People’s Church of Chicago. The forum featured three speakers giving different viewpoints. The speakers were: (1) Ra Chuka, Director of the African American Alliance for Peace and Justice; (2) Brad Lyttle, Candidate for President, United States Pacifist Party; and (3) David Pyle, UU Seminarian and chaplain candidate. A total of 29 people attended, including the speakers. The event included formal presentations by the speakers, followed by questions and discussion. Thanks to all the Peace Task Force members who helped make this event a success and special thanks

to Jean Pierce who was moderator and Rev. Jean Darling who prepared our announcement and offered her church as the site of the event.

The peace task force will be planning our 2009 activities with some hope for better prospects for peace with the Obama administration in Washington. If you want to be part of this process, please join us Saturday 1-24-09, 2:00 to 3:30PM at the Third Unitarian Church, 301 N. Mayfield in Chicago. To attend by conference call, dial 1-800-704-9804 then enter the code 892781#. All CAUUC church members and friends are welcome.

If you have questions or suggestions, contact Gene Horcher (773) 561-5296 email: horcher@att.net

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