

UUSJ Newsletter – Spring 2019

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Andrew T. Fisher, Editor & Communications Director

1448 East 52nd Street, PM Box 144

Chicago, IL 60615

Phone: 773-595-4921 / E-mail: uusj@sbcglobal.net

Web site: <http://uusforsocialjustice.org/>

Chair's Corner:

At the UUSJ Winter Quarterly Meeting the UUSJ Board approved entering into fiscal sponsorship agreements with small Illinois non-profit corporations that lack Section 501(c)(3) status with IRS, providing that a member of the UUSJ Board, a UUSJ Task Force, or a spouse or partner of such a UUSJ activist, serves on the Board of the non-profit seeking fiscal sponsorship. The proposal to enter into a specific fiscal sponsorship must come from one of the UUSJ task forces and be in furtherance of the task force's mission. The organization that UUSJ enters into a fiscal sponsorship agreement must report periodically to the task force that moved the fiscal sponsorship agreement and provide financial data to the UUSJ Treasurer and Board semi-annually. Income and expenses of the sponsored organization will be included, in summary form, in UUSJ's financial statements. The first organization that UUSJ entered into a fiscal sponsorship agreement with was the Rainbow Beach Park Advisory Council, based on a request from the UUSJ Environmental Task Force.

The UUSJ Board agreed to the following schedule for our Spring, Summer and Fall/ Annual Meetings. Spring Quarterly Meeting to be held on Sunday, May 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. The location will be Second Unitarian Church, 656 W. Barry, Chicago 60657, with the program organized by the Peace Task Force. See further details

after box below, which also be coming out on a flyer shortly.

The Summer Quarterly Meeting will likely happen on Sunday, Aug. 25, between 2 and 5 p.m., mostly likely at either the North Shore Unitarian Church or DuPage Unitarian Church. The Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness has the responsibility for the program, which is expected to be on Medicare for All: The Many Options.

The Fall/Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 24th, between 2 and 5 p.m., at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, with the program organized by the Environmental Task Force.

Allan Lindrup, Chair
uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-595-4921

Spring Quarterly Meeting

The UUSJ Spring Quarterly Meeting is at the Second Unitarian Church of Chicago, 656 W. Barry, on Sunday, May 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. The Peace task force will do the program

Program Description:

How we can use the War Powers Act to reduce the US military role in the world.

presentation by:

Robert Naiman,
Director of Just Foreign
Policy Now
(www.justforeignpolicynow.org)

Open Meeting, sponsored by the Peace Task Force of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (Chicago Area)

Sunday, May 5, 2019, 2:00 pm
Second Unitarian Church
656 W. Barry St., Chicago, IL

Maybe by the time you read this, President Trump will have signed the Act to End the War in Yemen, maybe he will have vetoed it. We have work to do in either case, and Robert Naiman, who has been effectively organizing for this historic application of the War Powers Act, is the perfect speaker to inform and guide us.

For information on parking contact
Lgroetzinger@yahoo.com

UUSJ Economic Justice and Homelessness Task Force Report

This report will be shorter than usual, as the task force meeting schedule for April 6 failed to have a quorum, so it will need to be rescheduled later, most likely for the last weekend of April, but perhaps on a weekday, since many of us are more booked up on weekends. The task force initiated an Action Alert, approved via email, in March, in support of an Illinois Constitutional Amendment to lift the ban on a progressive income tax. This measure is first being considered in the Illinois Senate. Our Action Alert

participants in Illinois were asked to write to their state Senators, if their Senator was not on the list of sponsors of the legislation, and to their member in the Illinois House, as the measure has a good chance of passing the Senate and moving on to House consideration this spring. If passed by the necessary 3/5 vote in both chambers the Constitutional Amendment would go before the voters at the general election in November, 2020. If passed by the voters the General Assembly could adopt a progressive income tax in 2021.

Our next Action Alert, which may also be co-sponsored by UUSJ's Interfaith Criminal Justice Task Force, is likely to be in support of an Amendment to the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance that would reduce the housing discrimination faced by individuals with (criminal conviction) records. That legislation matters to this task force because over 20 percent of those who have returned to society with records end up homeless, with employment and housing discrimination the main factors causing that homelessness. A request for Home and Hope Booster grant nominations was sent out in early February, with a nominations deadline of March 31. However, no nominations were received by March 31, so the deadline is extended until one or more nomination is received. We hope to receive at least one nomination before this task force meets in a few weeks.

We plan to have a program on "Medicare for All: The Many Options"

at UUSJ's Summer Quarter Meeting as many Democratic Presidential candidates support some form of Medicare for All but mean different things. There have been at least seven pieces of national legislation, which might fit into this topic, filed in the prior and current Congresses, which can help shape the discussion. If you would be interested in joining or trying out participation in the UUSJ Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness, please let me know so that you can receive notice of task force meetings and their agendas.

Allan Lindrup, task force Chair
uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-595-4921

UUSJ Environmental Task Force Report

Congregational Reports:

- (1) First Unitarian Church of Chicago – Allan reported that for Earth Day on April 28, they are having an environmental worship service lead by their sabbatical minister, followed by a forum on the PROs and CONs of creating a professional golf course in Jackson and South Shore Parks.
- (2) UU Society of Geneva Bill said there is still no Environmental Task Force at USG, but they try to encourage advocacy on climate change.
- (3) Evanston – Andrew reported from the Green Team that all is going well, basically the same as

before – composting bin outside, Earth Day service, and two rain gardens well.

Action Alert: Since the Winter UUSJ Newsletter, the Environmental task force has issued one action alert, on March 24, 2019 to Illinois Representatives and Senators regarding two fracking bills, HB 282 to make fracking information more open to the public, and HB 3383 to allow counties and municipalities to restrict fracking within their districts.

Educational insert: We had none to edit or distribute at this time.

Next meeting: – We agreed to hold our next meeting on Sunday, May 19, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., at Native Foods Restaurant at 218 S. Clark Ave, Chicago.

With any questions, contact:
Andrew T. Fisher – Chair
847-492-1832 or
fishorgn1580@gmail.com

UUSJ Peace Task Force Report



**Minutes of March 20, 2019, Peace
T/F Meeting-By Conference Call**
Attendance --- Present: Jane
Bannor, Nancy Cowger, Linda
Groetzinger, Rosalie Riegle, Charles
Paidcock; Absent: Finley Campbell,

Karla Chew, Evan Freund, Gene Horcher

1. Discussed Mission Statement Draft – Linda will integrate suggested revisions to and recirculate for approval by T/F. (pending)
2. Action Alerts: We reminded ourselves that if the task force votes (by a majority) to approve an Action Alert, members who do not agree with a majority can send their own letters or not. Linda encouraged members to specify the difficulties they have with a given proposed Action Alert, to expand the depth of our discussion.
3. Reports from Congregations: Unitarian Church of Evanston (UCE) Military Bridge Builders Group is planning an event for Memorial Day, with an emphasis on peace. At Second Unitarian in Chicago, Linda G. posts Calls for Action about once a month in the Hammer (Second Unitarian's SJ online newsletter, available by subscription contact LGroetzing@yahoo.com) and in the Anvil, their church newsletter. She staffs a social justice table during coffee hour with peace-related information, and has initiated a Social Justice moment during the service, both including peace related information and calls for action. A few people respond. Members at other churches are encouraged to expand their peace-promoting visibility.
4. April 15 Tax Day Leafletting and Demonstration (See flyer elsewhere in this newsletter). Linda has received the permit. Charles has ordered received the War Resisters' pie chart of budget on military expenditures. Everyone on the call plans to attend. Rosalie, Charles, Brad Lyttle, and Linda plan to speak briefly. Linda will f/u for musician, offering \$50 from T/F funds; Brad will bring the speaker system. Linda will update the half-sheet flyer for review, sending it to this T/F, for distribution to congregations and peace groups. Charles suggested investigating an inexpensive ad to be posted to Face Book. Rosalie will contact Mike Brenner to see if he will bring his puppets, and a Statue of Liberty crying puppet. Linda will ask Andrew to post the flyer on the UUSJ website, and include it in the UUSJ Newsletter (if the time is right).
5. May 5th Quarterly Meeting: -- Robert Naiman, Director of Just Foreign Policy Now (www.justforeignpolicynow.org) , has agreed to be our speaker. He will come by train from Champaign. We will provide honorarium of \$100. Allan L. has agreed that if Robert's train is delayed the business meeting may be started first, planning to interrupt at the end of whatever topic is under discussion when Robert arrives, to begin Robert's program. Nancy said Robert is a very

good speaker and good at handling questions. Linda will produce a flyer for circulation and approval by the T/F, and then circulation by Allan to church contacts, and by T/F to other peace groups. Topic: How we can use the War Powers Act to reduce the US military role in the world.

6. Next Meeting: Friday, April 19th, from 11:00 – 12:30, by telephone conference call.

**Only You Can Stop Increases
to
US Military Spending**



**Join the UUSJ Peace Task Force at
Chicago's Federal Plaza**

**11:00am – 1pm on Mon, April 15
(Tax Day)**

**to distribute flyers protesting
the amount of our tax dollars
spent on arms and the military.**

Help spread the word!

You'll find us near the entrance to
the downtown

Loop Post Office at 211 So Clark
Street

Interfaith Criminal Justice Taskforce-

The task force met in March with at Project HOOD, 6330 S. King Drive, Chicago, IL 60637. We were joined by three attorneys from the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender to inform us about the station representation program. Their names are: Lori Roper-Attorney Supervisor in Problem Solving Courts, Trina Smith-Attorney Supervisor in the Felony Trial Division and Sheree Dykes-Henry, Assistant Public Defender in Markham. The program aims to provide legal representation to any arrestee at the police station where they are being detained.

The task force has continued to advocate for bills that have been proposed at the Illinois legislature this year. Around two dozen of them have survived the second reading and are under active consideration. Many of the UU churches sent delegations to Springfield as part of the Lobby day to advocate for the Fair Tax amendment, the tax credit to landlords renting to people with records, and the Equal Justice for All Act (HB 3347), which prohibits the use of money bond and reduces pretrial incarceration.

No one should be incarcerated before they go to trial simply because they cannot afford to pay their bond, or to generate revenue to counties through the 10% non-returnable bail fees.

from incarceration and rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals.

We will next meet on April 20th with the Justice Ministry at Trinity United Church of Christ at 12:30 at Trinity UCC on 95th Street to further our collaboration.

We discussed the necessity of establishing contact with the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative of the Pritzker administration to coordinate future efforts for criminal justice reform. The Pritzker Transition Committee previously published a position paper on Restorative Justice and Safer Communities signals productive change by emphasizing diversion

Evan Freund, Chair

Evan Freund

773-624-0333

efreund@chicagobooth.edu

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