

# *UUSJ Newsletter – Fall 2017*

## *Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice*

*An affiliate of the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council*

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### ***Chair's Corner:***

#### Non-violence and the struggle against racism

Since the racist violence at Charlottesville I have talked with a number of Unitarians who were troubled by the violent behavior of anti-racists attacking Nazis and other right-wing hate groups. Some were especially troubled by the videos from Berkeley, California in which "anti-fa" protesters were shown beating up a member of a right-wing group. These people I have talked with do not say that racists and anti-racists are morally equivalent, but they claim that when anti-racists use violence we are sinking to the same level as the racists and that we tend to lose support among the larger population. "Violence only breeds more violence", "Love will overcome Hate" I think it is safe to say these are common sentiments among us Unitarians.

Speaking for myself, I make the following points.

1) When people demonstrating for multi-racial unity or against racism are attacked, it is a good thing to fight back if possible. It is a good thing to make Nazis and other racists regret attacking anti-racists.

#### **UUSJ Fall/Annual Meeting**

The UUSJ Fall/Annual Meeting will take place in Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466, Sunday, December 3, from 2 to 5 p.m. The Peace Task Force will lead a program

2) Seeking out and attacking Nazis and other organized racists such as KKK'ers is a good thing. They should not feel safe walking the streets.

3) There is no moral equivalency between Nazis attacking anti-racists or peace activists and anti-racists defending themselves against or attacking Nazis. Jewish partisans killing German soldiers in the forests of Belarus ARE NOT the same as SS killers gunning down Jews in the ghettos.

I have serious problems with the groups more or less identified as anarchists or "black block". In some cases they act as provocateurs. I'm thinking of the NATO march here in Chicago Their notion of political leadership (if they have one) is to posture as revolutionaries with spray paint cans. They have a false sense of militancy and readiness to fight with their masks and sticks, etc., but

with no apparent interest in winning people over to anti-racism. But nevertheless if they attack organized, self-identified Nazis or KKK'ers I say that's a good thing. Nazis and their kind will not go away on their own.

On the issue of violence and self-defense, I want to recommend "This Non-Violent Stuff'll Get You Killed" a book by Charles E. Cobb Jr. which shows that leaders in the South like King, Shuttlesworth, and many others were protected by folks who were armed and ready to defend civil rights workers against the murdering racists in the South. The commitment to self-defense—armed self-defense saved the lives of many workers in the South without which there would have been many more Kings, Evers, Chaney's, Goodmans and Schwartzes.

## **UUSJ Economic Justice and Homelessness Task Force Report**

Since April the UUSJ Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness has had two Action Alerts. In the spring we targeted members of Congress on the subject of "tax reform". We urged our Senators and House Members to 1) oppose the repeal of the inheritance tax, 2) oppose "reforms" that would reduce the overall tax obligation of those in the top 10 percent of income earners, and vehemently oppose anything that would reduce the

overall tax obligations of those with incomes in the top 1 percent, and 3) work to end the lower tax rates on income from investments, as income from wages and salaries should have the same inherent value as income from investments. With regards to corporate tax rate changes, we urged that such measures be revenue neutral, with any reduction in the general corporate tax rate funded through the elimination or sharp curtailment of corporate tax deductions. In the summer we had another action alert targeting members of Congress, urging that they oppose all or most of the cuts that the Administration is proposing in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. We also urged the members of Congress to oppose cuts to the Tennant-based Rental Assistance/Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers program and cuts to the Public Housing Capital Fund.

At its meeting on July 22 the Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness approved a Home and Hope Booster grant nomination submitted on behalf of the Compassion for Campers program of the Social Justice Committee of the Tree of Life UU Church (located in McHenry, IL. The nomination was in support of the Compassion for Campers Program, which benefits the homeless of McHenry County during the five months of each year when no PADS shelter are open. From May through September of each year, when McHenry County's PADS network is closed, the Tree of Life UU Congregation, located in the town of McHenry, operates a Compassion for Campers program.

That program serves the McHenry County homeless who sleep in vehicles, couch surf, or pitch a tent out of the sight of law enforcement and land owners during the warmer 5 months of the year. The program provides these homeless individuals and families, who are called “campers”, a hot meal and socializing every Monday, plus much needed camping supplies, canned goods, and personal care products.

A core group of members of the Tree of Life UU Congregation oversee the scheduling, preparation and providing of the hot lunch each Monday. One volunteer, who attended every such hot lunch, brings a tent, tables, chairs, and serving supplies each Monday. The core group works to collect donations (there is a drop box in the congregation’s social hall) and make purchases to provide the camping supplies, canned goods, and personal care items that are made available for the homeless who need them. In addition, Tree of Life UU Congregation takes a special collection each March, to help with the expenses of operating this program. Sometimes donations of goods or money are received from other (non-UU) congregations in McHenry County. The Compassion for Campers program runs on a budget separate from the congregation’s budget. We thank Tree of Life UU Congregation members for their many years of service and financial support to this Compassion for Campers program. Our collection for this Home and Hope Booster grant raised \$425,

which was sent to the church for the Compassion for Campers program.

The task force also updated the Chicago and Suburban Chicago versions of the If YOU or Someone You Know Need Help resource sheets and distributed them to the roughly 90 UU churches, social service agencies, social workers, and others who are on our database of those to receive yearly updates. These sheets are handy to have in church or organizational offices, to give out to the homeless or other poor individuals seeking assistance, but can also be used by individuals to give to individuals seeking hand-outs on the street. If you know of organizations (other than your church) who could benefit from the resource sheets, please pass the information on to the writer of this column.

The task force will hold its next meeting on Saturday, Oct. 14, between 12:30 and 2 p.m., at Third Unitarian Church, 301 N. Mayfield, Chicago 60644. All are welcome. To get notices and the agenda for task force meetings in advance, let this writer know of your interest. Allan Lindrup, task force Chair 773-595-4921 or [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net)

## **UUSJ Environmental Task Force Report**

### **Congregational Reports:**

(1) First Unitarian Church of Chicago  
The Green Sanctuary Group

presented two programs at the church: July 13th: Dr. Guy McPherson spoke on “Choosing Your Life in Uncertain Climate Disruption”; July 16th: Ellie Hall led a mini-forum on a broad range of options for investing or re-investing in Renewable Energy. They are promoting sustainable living, environmental justice, and environmental religious education.

(2) Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. Gene Horcher is recycling church programs.

(3) Beverly Unitarian Church sponsored two popular environmental tours to benefit their Service auction. The May hazardous waste collection in Pullman was disappointing due to the small amount collected. They will have their usual electronic/hazardous waste collection on October 7th at the Church. Eileen Klees led a mini-forum last summer on the proposed Carbon Market from a Carbon Tax.

(4) Evanston Their Green Sanctuary Group (renamed “Green team”) has a goal of zero waste by composting biodegradable cups, etc. and a bin outside for members, as well as recycling. They collect toxic waste for proper disposal as well. The two rain gardens are doing well.

Since the Spring UUSJ Newsletter, the Environmental task force has issued **two action alerts**: (1) on July 11 to both US senators against HR 953 with deep cuts in EPA and other environmental programs, and (2) on Sept. 19 to President Trump with hurricanes Harvey and Irma plus

drought and forest fires in the west, the US is UNDER ATTACK by global warming, and he has to lead the U.S. to fight back.

**Educational inserts:** We are working on one by Fran on the pros and cons in the carbon market. She needs more details. Allan will start one on Solar Energy and Residential Energy Credits later.

**Next meeting:** Will start at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Bee Zee at 424 S. Wabash. With any questions, contact: Andrew T. Fisher – Chair 847-492-1832 or [fishorgn1580@gmail.com](mailto:fishorgn1580@gmail.com)

## UUSJ Peace Task Force Report

By Jane Bannor, Task force chair

Members of the UUSJ Peace task force participated in Chicago’s International Day of Peace commemoration at Daley Plaza on Friday, Sept 22.



At the event the peace task force distributed copies of the War

Resisters' League pie-chart flyer, showing that in FY 2018 over 48% of the US budget went to fund the military – current expenses, debt repayments, military health and retirement payments, etc.

The event at Daley Plaza was well-attended with most local diplomatic counsels participating and speeches from County Board member Chuy Garcia and others. Two different drumming groups performed, and both ethnic and school groups helped conduct a parade of international flags. The emphasis was definitely on Internationalism with little recognition of the growing threat of nuclear proliferation and armed conflict, so the participation of the UUSJ Peace Task force was especially important

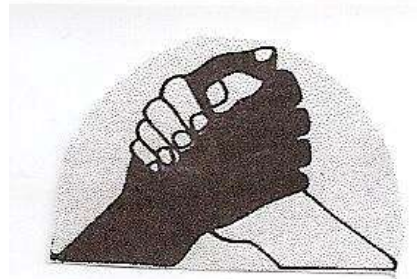
The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by a unanimous resolution of the UN, which set aside each September 21 “as a globally shared day for all Humanity to Commit to Peace”. In past years conflicts have stopped for the day and humanitarian groups have delivered needed health and food supplies. This year various local UU churches observed the day with chalice lightings and special readings.

The next meeting of the Peace Task force will be Saturday, October 14 at 2pm at Third Unitarian Church, 301 No Mayfield, Chicago. If you'd like to attend the meeting but are unable to join in person, phone in to 1-800-704-9804, then enter code 892781. The task force is discussing ways to bring our message to more churches, to develop joint programming and planning for a peace-oriented program for the next

UUSJ Quarterly meeting in Park Forest on Sunday, December 3.

Any questions contact  
Chair Jane Bannor,  
[jbannor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbannor@sbcglobal.net)

## **Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus (UUMUAC) Report**



“The Unity of the Light and Dark Skinned  
People of the World.”

The Unitarian Universalist Multiracial  
Unity Action Caucus Report  
by Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell,  
spokesperson  
[finleycampbell5222@comcast.net](mailto:finleycampbell5222@comcast.net)

Greetings to members and friends of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice – Chicago Area. First of all, hats off to Brother Allan Lindrup for taking the lead in getting out two UUMUAC initiated action alerts. One dealt with increasing licensing and employment opportunities for Illinois residents with records. The other, related to DACA, was in support of the Dream Act of 2017.

A. More hats off for the members of the UUMUAC Midwest Regional

Organizing Committee, Marie Cobbs, Kelvin Sandridge, Allan Lindrup and me, for organizing the UUMUAC presence at the Unitarian Universalist Association Mid-America Regional Assembly in Oakbrook, Illinois (April 28 – 30th, 2017).

We presented two workshops there, one on the need for multiracial Unitarian Universalism in the fight against neo-racism during the era of President Trump and a well-attended Conversation Against Racism workshop, which despite disruptions by members of ARE (an all-white group) and Black Lives UU Organizing Collective or BLUUOC, was a very successful event, with Allan Lindrup, Marie Cobbs, and me as workshop leaders. We also fought off a mendacious attack on us by the Right Relations Team, with moderate success. We also developed three resolutions to be presented at the end of the Assembly to the departing delegates: opposing any attempt to adopt the proposed 8th Principle without full discussion and debate, opposing giving 5 million dollars to BLUUOC without a description of how the money is to be spent, and opposing the racial audit proposed by the GA interim leadership team. Even though we were prevented from presenting these resolutions, we did submit them eventually to the UUSJ Board, which approved the first two items.

B. Our second major event was our efforts at UUA GA 2017, led by the Campbell-Cobbs-Sandridge-Christiansen team. We were successful in terms of execution but failed to have mass participation in our key programs. First of all, we had to face the reality that white-supremacy-ology would dominate much of this General Assembly, as seen in the four basic program tracks: all black, all people of color, all white, and regular UU desegregated workshops. We were the only intentional fifth track,

the multiracial Unitarian Universalist track, but we were not a part of the main program officially and this would become a problem.

By the way, “White-supremacy-ology” aka “whitesupremacyology” is defined as “that form of neo-racism which argues that all white people, especially antiracist whites who live within a racist imperialist system, are white supremacists, either overtly or covertly, a view based on a pseudo-scientific document called the ‘Spectrum of White Supremacy’,” (Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell, spokesperson, UUMUAC).

So, this is the framework in which our work at GA 17 has to be measured. Beginning on Wednesday June 23 and ending on Monday June 26, we accomplished the following: a successful struggle against the attempt to have the Banner Parade, which traditionally opens the General Assembly, come in last during the opening ceremony; two workshops on neo-racism, especially one led by Dr. Kenneth Christiansen on asset-based anti-racist struggles, a small symbolic action against the proposed Trump budget cuts, a confrontation with youthful members of the UUA neo-racist movement, and a small memorial service honoring Gen. James Longstreet, a Confederate general who opposed slavery and who became a radical reconstructionist after the war. In a plenary session I was prevented from getting out the UUMUAC opposition to the 8th principle Responsive Resolution, as then worded, because of filibustering by the DRUUMM/ARE alliance. The Responsive Resolution was voted on and adopted without debate.

Four of us, three black and one white, ended our Sunday GA activities with a symbolic action, celebrating the desegregation of the New Orleans street

car system, the descendants of the original street car used in the Plessy vs Ferguson Supreme Court decision which institutionalized white supremacy in its second and final phase, aka Jim Crow racism.

C. Our last major event was a moderately successful Conversation About Racism at First Unitarian Church of Hobart as the program part of the UUSJ Summer Quarterly meeting. Brother Lindrup and Sister Cobb did an admirable job in helping guide the talk about the when-where-who-what-why of racism. For those who stayed and took part, we did establish clearly that racism had a specific historical beginning in the 17th century and specific proponents, e.g., Thomas Jefferson, and has not been an aspect of human existence since the days of Neolithic communism.

D. The Africa Report: Brother Taye Woldeemiate was in Africa, specifically Nairobi, Kenya from June 10 to July 31st, with a stopover in Frankfurt Germany. He has been meeting with a small group of about 15 people who know about UUMUAC and who are concerned with the fate of Africa in terms of neo-tribalism and neo-colonialism and inter-imperialist rivalry. He took part in a series of weekly workshops on these issues, social political gatherings with drinks, music and sharing followed, and also a panel presentation about neoliberalism where he raised the issue of multiracial Unitarian Universalism. At one of our Africa workshops, some potential UUMUAC members indicated that they were both interested in and yet suspicious of Unitarian Universalism, seeing it as a Christian religion. However, they did agree to write articles about all these things. Taye also visited the Delgado Girl's School and updated their old UUMUAC brochures. He visited some small UU congregations in Africa, which seemed

to be Christian, rather than like UU congregation in the U.S.

Taye has agreed to discuss with the Africa Project Committee some of the ways we can have a more ideological and organizational connection with his friends and contacts over there. One recommendation is to develop a MAC pamphlet showing how neo-racism does include neo-colonialism and neo-tribalism. The Africa Project Committee will be meeting in October to come up with some recommendations for improving, not abandoning, the project. Brother Taye recommended that I go over next year to Kenya to give a presentation on the on the nature of multi-racial Unitarian Universalism and How it could be applied to the neo-racist situation in that part of the world.

Up Coming Projects: Meetings, Proposals, and Feasibility Studies

1. Friday, October 6, 2017: A meeting of the UUMUAC Exec Comm at the Social Revival Restaurant on Granville, east of Broadway, 2 – 4 pm.
2. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 7 – 9, our Christmas Bazaar featuring the artistic products of the Afghan Women's Fund, headed up by UUMUAC member Fahima Gaheez
3. Saturday, April 21, 2018 A Conference Against Neo-Racist Unemployment, tentatively scheduled for Detroit, Michigan in light of the fact that there will be no Mid America Regional Assembly that spring. (There will be a modified version held in connection with the Kansas City GA).
4. UUA GA 2018 in Kansas City Missouri will require a UUMUAC presence.
5. Sunday, July 1, 2018 - The Gettysburg Project, honoring our white brothers from Maine, the 20th Volunteers, who, along with General Longstreet, prevented a decisive Confederate Slave States victory over the Union Army at Gettysburg.

6. August, participation in the Poor People's Campaign March being organized by Rev. William Barbour of the Moral Monday Coalition

To conclude this report: Overall, despite our small numbers, hundreds of people from Oak Brook, Illinois to Nairobi, Kenya have been hearing our message through workshops, literature, conversations, both formal and informal, and just plain socializing. Even a candidate for governor of the State of Illinois, Bob Daiber, has endorsed our vision and 90 per cent of our action plans. We have had several new and renewal membership sign ups. My overall evaluation is that our international impact has been small but powerful. Good people have been touched,

like an old white couple from Greenville South Carolina, one of the areas of my youth. Even the UUA bureaucracy has had to oppose our resistance. So, the slogan remains true: we may be small but we ain't all; the fight for multiracial Unitarian Universalism remains our goal.

To hear a poorly recorded version of our Mid America Regional Conversations Against Racism, contact [finleycampbell5222@comcast.net](mailto:finleycampbell5222@comcast.net); to get a fuller account of our work at the Mid America Regional Assembly and the UUA GA 2017, contact Allan Lindrup (at [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net)) for copies of the MAC Arrow, the spring and summer issues.

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