

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

2017 – 2018 Annual Report

by Mark Jagner

Description

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) advocates for freedom, justice, and equality for all people in Israel-Palestine. This means ending the military occupation and resolving the seven decades-old refugee crisis.

In Memoriam

At a July memorial service we said goodbye to founding member, Diane Cooper, who passed away in May. We could not have accomplished all that we did without Diane's intellect and passion for social justice.

Accomplishments

We hosted two inspiring speakers: Physician and author Dr. Alice Rothchild who spoke about volunteering at clinics in Israel-Palestine and the impact of military occupation on health and human rights; Violette Khoury from Nazareth discussed the discriminatory laws, segregation and racism experienced by Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Other Activities

- Forum about Jerusalem, featuring the documentary *Jerusalem: The East Side Story* and explaining the consequences of US recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital
- Forum on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement, featuring the video *BDS Movement Explained* with Omar Barghouti
- Members of UUAA signed a letter asking Congresswoman Debbie Dingell to co-sponsor the *Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act*
- Co-sponsored UM-CMENAS event *Politics through Narrative: Conversation with Jubran Husam and Yuval Ben Ami*, hosted by First United Methodist Church
- Co-sponsored *Building a Shared Society: Integrated Schools in Israel*, hosted by Temple Beth Emeth

Members

Mark Jagner and Anne Garcia (Co-Chairs), Larry Cooper, Ruth Vail, Marina Brown, Akin Ori-Orisan, Halla Motawi, Jane Capin, Jan Bower, May Seikaly

Goals

We are proposing that our congregation adopt a resolution supporting the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement. The resolution is in response to the 2005 call from Palestinian civil society for boycott, divestment, and sanctions to pressure Israel to end its oppression of the Palestinian people.