

# Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

2019–2020 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. Lasting peace requires an end to Israeli military rule, colonization and occupation of Palestinian territories; the right of refugees to return; and equal rights for Israel's Palestinian citizens.

## Accomplishments

8/25/2019 – “[Refusing to be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story](#)”, co-sponsored with *Unity Group*. The film documented a group of Arab and Jewish women that models the transformative power of dialogue. Zeitouna members Laurie White, filmmaker, and Huda Rosen led the discussion.

9/29/2019 – “Achieving Civil Rights in Palestine/Israel Through Nonviolent Struggle”. Over 100 Ann Arbor area Christians, Muslims, Jews and UUs attend an interfaith conference on the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement co-sponsored by UUJME. The event featured Rev. Naim Ateek, founder of the [Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center](#).

## Other Activities

- 2019 General Assembly - Action of Immediate Witness: [Supporting our Frist Amendment Right to Boycott](#), sponsored by the national [UUJME](#), overwhelmingly approved.
- UUAA Congregants sent postcards urging members of Congress to co-sponsor the “[Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living under Israeli Military Occupation Act](#)” (HR 2407). UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and two dozen [faith community leaders wrote a letter](#) supporting the bill.
- 2020 General Assembly – Business Resolution: [Embodying Human Rights in Our Investment Decisions](#), sponsored by a coalition of justice groups, is on the agenda.

## Goals

In February 2019, 72 UUAA members wrote to the Board of Trustees requesting a vote on a boycott and divestment resolution supporting Palestinian rights. We are working with the Board to 1) educate the congregation about the international [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement \(BDS\)](#), 2) give members of UUAA the opportunity to consider the resolution proposed by UUJME.

<http://uuaa.org/index.php/social-justice/faith-in-action/auujme>