



# Ann Arbor Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

## 2021–2022 Annual Report

Mark Jagner, Chair and Ruth Vail, Co-Chair

### **Description**

[\*Ann Arbor Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East\*](#) (AA-UUJME) is one of 27 chapters across the county that are part of the 51-year-old [\*UUs for Justice in the Middle East\*](#) (UUJME) organization. We advocate for freedom, justice and equality for all people living in the Middle East with a particular focus on Palestine/Israel. 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.

### **Activities**

With input from the UUAA Board and fellow congregants, our activities this year reflected a decision to set aside a congregational resolution endorsing the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) that we had proposed in 2019 so that we could provide more opportunities for learning and discussion.

- Panel discussion with Jewish activists working for Palestinian rights that featured representatives from [Jewish Voice for Peace-Detroit](#), [Eyewitness Palestine](#) and [Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights](#) (Univ. of Washington, Seattle).
- Displayed “[Promised Land: Jewish Museum of the Palestinian Experience](#)”. The exhibit provides a Jewish perspective rooted in Jewish values to treat our neighbors as we would want to be treated (a project of Voices for Justice in Palestine, Durham, NC).
- The national UUJME organization is a lead organizer of [Voices from the Holy Land](#) film series, which showcases independent films about Palestine/Israel by Palestinian and Jewish filmmakers.
- Action Alerts to Congress and Biden Admin. posted to UUAA Newsletters:
  1. [Defending 6 Palestinian Community and Human Rights Organizations](#) falsely declared “[terrorist organizations](#)” by the Israeli Military
  2. [Opposing forced displacement](#) of over 1000 Palestinians from Masafer Yatta, a city in the West Bank

### **Goals for Next Year**

Lead UUAA members in a process of learning and deciding what actions we can take as a community to support the Palestinian people. If the congregation decides on a resolution supporting Palestinian human rights, members of the community will have opportunities to provide input on the content and wording of the resolution.