

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

2018–2019 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.

Accomplishments

Huwaida Arraf, Palestinian-American civil rights lawyer, co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement gave the Sunday sermon at UUAA on May 27, 2018. As Chairperson of the Free Gaza Movement, Huwaida led 5 sea voyages to the Gaza Strip in 2008 to challenge Israel's illegal blockade.

In March 2019 we hosted a Palestinian Solidarity Panel Discussion featuring representatives of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Jewish Voice for Peace, and US Palestinian Community Network.

In December, a proposal for a resolution supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS) for Palestinian human rights was drafted and members of UUAA provided comments and feedback. In February, 72 members of UUAA submitted a written request to the Board of Trustees to call a congregational meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed resolution.

Other Activities

- Visit to the Arab American National Museum
- Video/Discussion: *BDS Movement Explained* with Omar Barghouti
- Video/Discussion: Panel discussion on *Ending White Supremacy* sponsored by UUJME at 2018 General Assembly
- Potluck/Video/Discussion: Co-sponsored by Challenging Racism featuring Rev. Dr. William Barber II's keynote speech from the 2018 US Campaign for Palestinian Rights *Together We Rise* conference.

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, Susan Ashmore, Michael Ashmore, Barbara Cherem, Richardo Wyatt

Goals

Ensure that our congregation is informed on the issues and has the opportunity to discuss and vote on whether to adopt a boycott and divestment resolution in support of Palestinian human rights.