

# SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY ACTION MINISTRY

## Page 1, Major Issues Undertaken Since 2000-with Lead Organizers

(Alphabetical):

- ◆ **Antiwar Activities** (Sandy Fulton, Paul Mack & Jenny Godwin, Annabel Grote, many others)—Organized and/or participated in national, regional & local peace demos including the Peace Chain, Camp Democracy, Grannies for Peace actions, "Arlington North" gravestones at Independence mall. Many pulpit speakers. Have spoken to youth in UUCR & local high schools, worked with AFSC on packages for Iraqis, and with the Friends' "Boots" display. Recently joined UUA's PeaceNet via emails & online.
- ◆ **Darfur** (Rita Fitzgerald, many others)—A major focus since 2005 & top priority issue with UU Service Committee (UUSC). Involved through Darfur Alert Coalition (DAC), local group with US & Sudanese activists & local organizations dedicated to stopping Sudan genocide. Guest pulpit speakers. Rallies in Phila & elsewhere, letter campaigns, demos at Sudanese & Chinese embassies, fundraising events. Sold solar cookers, urged PA legislators to divest state pension funds from companies doing business with Sudan government. Recent efforts focusing on building community women's center in a refugee camp in Sudan. Rita, lead person on this issue, is also Advocacy Director of DAC.
- ◆ **Fair Trade Products** (Paul, Frank & Tess Gerould, Jeanne Allen, others)—Monthly sales of coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil, etc. and holiday baskets before Christmas, with proceeds to the farmers & small amount to Ministry. UUCR serves only Fair Trade coffee at Coffee Hour.
- ◆ **Forums & Film Series** (Bridget Flynn, Sandy, Rita)—Forums and films on major social justice topics such as African American civil rights, environmental issues, issues of civil liberties, worker exploitation, and other relevant topics. Forums are irregular, films usually every month.
- ◆ **Handgun Trafficking** (Susan Windle, Frank, others)—Phila has appalling numbers of yearly handgun deaths. Our Ministry has sponsored well-attended musical events for education about illegal firearms & organized around the need for restriction of handgun sales, attended local church events as a group, participated in marches and demos, & lobbied PA legislature for better laws.
- ◆ **Katrina Relief** (Paul & Jenny, Brad & Julie Bradburd)—Three years after Katrina's devastation of New Orleans & the Gulf Coast, volunteers are still needed to assist rebuilding. The Ministry has fully supported these efforts, along with talks & a slide program delivered by returned volunteers at UUCR and elsewhere. A new trip is being organized by Brad and Paul in Feb or Mar 2009 for UU's throughout the area to assist recovery in New Orleans. The first organizational meeting will be in Hale Lounge, Oct 11, 9:30 AM. Contact Paul Mack, 215-242-1372 ([pmack342@verizon.net](mailto:pmack342@verizon.net)) or Brad Bradburd, 267-464-5022 ([bradburd@msn.com](mailto:bradburd@msn.com)) for info, to R.S.V.P that you plan to attend on Oct. 11, or that you are interested but cannot attend.
- ◆ **Local Collections of Food & Clothing** (Elisa Nocella, Dot Feely)—Philabundance food collections led by Elisa, & Whosoever Gospel Mission clothing collections led by Dot. Announcements, collections & delivery to mission serving the homeless & local agency providing support to the poor.
- ◆ **Reconstruction, Inc. Liaison** (Paul, Colie Chappelle, David Meketon, Helen & Chas Oerkvitz, others)—Phila has highest incarceration rate of the 6 largest US cities, & due to lack of employment & physical/emotional support, many end up back in prison after release. The Ministry is currently working with "Reconstruction, Inc.", a community based, family centered, non-profit grassroots organization against recidivism.
- ◆ **UU House** (Adrienne Morrison, Joan Doyle, Brad, Sandy, many others past & present)—Administrative & fiscal oversight of regional assisted living/nursing home serving district UUs and local residents of all denominations.
- ◆ **UUPlan** (Pat DeBrady, others)—Pat obtained UUA startup grant with Ministry support, bringing together Social Justice groups statewide. Besides regional gatherings, held Lobby Day in Harrisburg asking passage of legislation granting civil & social rights to GLBT citizens, held regional workshop on Techniques for Successful Advocacy at Main Line Church, with another advocacy workshop scheduled for the Pittsburgh region next month.
- ◆ **UUSC Guest at Your Table** (Tess Gerould)—Nationwide yearly collection of money for worldwide relief efforts of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

### UUCR CONTACTS

Antiwar: Sandy Fulton, 215-248-5013 ([medieval\\_student@earthlink.net](mailto:medieval_student@earthlink.net))

Darfur: Rita Fitzgerald, 215-886-5590 ([refitzgerald@aol.com](mailto:refitzgerald@aol.com))

Fair Trade: Paul Mack 215-242-1372 ([pmack342@verizon.net](mailto:pmack342@verizon.net))

Handgun Control: Susan Windle, 215-242-2137 ([sjwindle@comcast.net](mailto:sjwindle@comcast.net))

Reconstruction, Inc.: Paul Mack (see above)

UU House: Brad Bradburd 267-464-5022 ([bradburd@msn.com](mailto:bradburd@msn.com))

UUPlan: Pat DeBrady 215-283-7157 ([patikesdottir@aol.com](mailto:patikesdottir@aol.com))

UUSC "Guest": Tess Gerould, 215-635-1976 ([tgerould@hotmail.com](mailto:tgerould@hotmail.com))

Katrina Relief: Paul Mack (see above) or Brad Bradburd (see above)

Local Collections of Food & Clothing: Food-Elisa Nocella, 215-539-7151; Clothing-Dot feely, 215-572-5247 ([pdfeel@aol.com](mailto:pdfeel@aol.com))

See Page 2



# SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY ACTION MINISTRY

Page 2, Issues Undertaken Since 2000

## By Topic

(Alphabetical)

- ♦ Economic Exploitation Issues—"Fair Trade" product sales, Film on multinational outsourcing & Chinese worker plight
- ♦ Elder & Health Issues—Medicare Part D forum with UU House Outreach & "Eastern PA Organizing Project" (EPOP) assistance, Ministry members have spoken in UU House Outreach Elder Forum series
- ♦ Environment, Pollution & Energy—"World Water Day" participation, Decreasing bottled water use at UUCR, Film on resistance to privatizing water. Lobbying for energy alternatives & energy conservation with "PA Future"
- ♦ Gun Violence Prevention in Philadelphia—"Cease Fire Pennsylvania" demos & lobbying, Faith-based protests in local churches
- ♦ Interfaith Activity—Coordination with Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM) & EPOP toward social justice goals
- ♦ Maintaining & Extending Civil Liberties & Civil Rights—Patriot Act forum, Adult RE course in Dissent, Immigrant support march, LGBT rights lobbying, Films on Fanny Lou Hamer, Viola Liuzzo, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Scopes trial.
- ♦ Peace & Antiwar Activism & Education—Besides war protests, pulpit speakers on Israel-Palestine, annual "Peace Walk", Conscientious objection forum for youth, high school counter-recruitment, UUA PeaceNet participation.
- ♦ Prisoners' Issues—Members work with "Reconstruction, Inc." & "PA Prison Society" for prisoner assistance while imprisoned & rehabilitation after release.
- ♦ Relief Efforts—Participation in New Orleans cleanup, UUSC liaison including Guest at Your Table, "Whosoever Gospel Mission" & Philabundance collections, "Darfur Alert Coalition" talks, meetings & lobbying, Education on issues from pulpit speakers & slideshow.
- ♦ UUPlan—Began as a major effort of UUCR Social Justice, now State-wide with regional workshops & lobbying.

See Page 1



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