

## History of the First Parish Peace & Justice Group

### **Background**

The Globalization Task Force (GFT) was established in 2003 as one of the first programs to be funded by the Social Responsibility Council. The mission of the GFT was to study and act upon the social justice forces created by economic globalization. After two years, GFT's focus gradually began to include issues and campaigns which reached beyond the scope of economic globalization. Prior to the beginning of the 05-06 church year, the name of the GFT was changed to the Peace & Justice Group.

With the exception of grants made to the Social Responsibility Council used to purchase a multi-media projector and screen, along with several honoraria used to bring several speakers to FP, and the annual CLVI license fee allowing us to legally screen films, the P & J group has largely been self-funded thru donations received from film screenings. Additionally, a percentage of Fair Trade product coffee hour sales typically generates \$900.00 - \$1100.00 per year in contributions to the FP general fund.

Group size has steadily increased to the current total of 8-9 active, involved members.

### **Mission Statement**

The Peace & Justice Group's mission is to study, educate, and take action upon social justice and peace issues pertinent to our Unitarian Universalist values. Additionally, the P & J Group will work to promote the social justice campaigns of both the UUSC and the UUA's Congregational Study Action Issues and Statements of Conscience.

### **Our Programs**

Central to our mission has been the P & J monthly film series, began in 2006, and which will continue to be an important educational tool used to teach and inspire to action. Films will be selected on the basis of their relevance to the important issues of our time, and whenever possible, will be co-hosted by other grassroots organizations. With the hope of drawing a larger audience, films will be shown on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month.

Other programs and campaigns we have committed to during the '09-'10 church year include:

1. **Participation in the UUSC Coffee Project:** focus on the promotion of fair trade thru the coffee hour sale of Equal Exchange product and Palestinian Olive oil.

2. **Water as a Human Right:** will include the hosting of the UUSC's "*Water Justice Praxis*" adult education program sometime during the 09-10 church year. We hope to involve the Sr Youth Group in this and other of our programs.

3. **Israelei- Palestinain Study/Action** : will include participation in the Boston Palestinian Film Festival; the screening of pertinent educational documental films, and the hosting of panel discussions and speakers familiar with the history of the issue.

4. **Peacekeeping**: continued promotion of witnessing for a peace thru participation in local vigils & peace events; partnering other area grassroots organizatio; lobbying of legislators, and study & promotion of the UUA's 'Peacekeeping' CSAI (Congregational Study Action Issue)

5. **Ethical Eating - Food and Enviornmentaal Justice** : will promote this 2008-12 UUA CSAI which focuses on world hunger and sustainable food supply. Will also promote involvement in Community Sponsored Agriculture coops.

6. **KIVA** micro lending program: will development a program & promote involvement in KIVA

7. **UUSC Liaison**: with work closey with the Service Committee to identify and promote programs and campaigns of common interest.

### **Group Composition**

The P & J Group would be composed of 9 members serving recommended terms of 3 years.

Presented by:  
Joe Pompei  
09/17/2009