

ALUUC Social Action Committee Annual Report (July 2010-June 2011)

The ALUUC Social Action Committee (SAC) educates the congregation and takes action on social justice issues. This committee also supports many community projects and connecting with local, national and international social justice organizations.

Monthly Activities

- Change for Change

On the first Sunday of each month, a collection is taken for the Change for Change Program. Funds have been provided to the following organizations:

Month	Organization	Amount
July	Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault	\$66.35
August	Jacksonville Prison Project	\$189.30
September	Computer Banc	\$115.35
October	Youth Services Bureau	\$151.45
November	Central Illinois Food Bank	\$185.90
December	Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery	\$240.39
January	Young Parent Support Services Program of Family Service Center of Sangamon County	\$165.47
February	Equality Illinois	\$115.48
March	Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield	\$248.72
April	Senior Services of Central Illinois	\$223.15
May	La Colectiva	\$178.33
June	Peace Camp	\$200.31
TOTAL		\$2,080.20

- Fair Trade Products Sale

Fair Trade products (coffee, teas, cocoa, and chocolate bars) are sold once a month. The purchase of fair trade goods through the UUSC Coffee Project benefits agricultural cooperatives through UUSC's Small Farmer Fund. A small amount of funds are generated from these sales to support SAC activities. This year, the Fellowship Committee began serving fair trade coffee on Sundays, following the service.

- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

The SAC provides monthly updates about UUSC programs and membership (information is shared in the monthly ALUUC newsletter, in the weekly announcements and on the ALUUC website). The Committee provides leadership to the two annual events -- Guest at Your Table (GAYT) and Justice Sunday.

On November 21 the SAC provided information about GAYT as part of the morning service. ALUUC members and friends received a Guest at Your Table box and/or donation envelope and learned about how the UUSC puts our shared principles into action in the United States and around the world.

On May 1, the SAC organized a Justice Sunday service that focused on immigration. The service, *Welcoming the Newcomer*, highlighted the ongoing UUSC human-rights work and was the “kick-off” for our study and response to this important issue. Guest speakers and presenters included, Ricardo Diaz, Pat Nolan and Claire Szoke.

Another UUSC event is the Annual Reverse Trick-or-Treating program. Through Reverse Trick-or-Treating, children and local groups have the opportunity to hand out samples of fair-trade chocolate to candy givers, as they go house to house on Halloween. What makes their sample fair-trade chocolates so special is that they come with a card describing the social and environmental costs of corporate chocolate — and offering fair trade as an alternative. On October 31, ALUUC members and friends (all RE students too) received a piece of chocolate attached to a card. Information about the Reverse Trick-or-Treating kits was also shared in the monthly newsletter.

ALUUC members and friends generously contributed to two special collections - UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund (\$546.58) and the UUA-UUSC Japan Relief Fund (\$1,409.05) for a total of \$1,955.63.

Other Activities

- Conversation Café - Immigration as a Moral Issue

In 2010, delegates at the General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN selected "Immigration" to be the 2010—2014 UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue). The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations to take a topic of concern and confront it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it take action—each in their own way. The SAC has organized and will facilitate the study of immigration thorough six, 1.5 hour-long, classes that will be held on June 6, 13, 20 and July 11, 18, and 25. The Committee plans to continue programs of education and reflection, community organizing, advocacy, and public witness on Immigration.

- Mitten Tree

The ALUUC Social Action Committee solicited donations for the Contact Ministries Christmas Assistance Giveaway Program. Our congregation donated 36 pairs of gloves and mittens, 22 hats and 2 scarves.

- 2010 Peace Camp

Since 1995, Peace Camp has held a day camp for children teaching them conflict resolution skills, environment awareness, cultural appreciation, and much more. Campers participate in crafts, play games, listen to story tellers, and learn non-violent ways to work out their problems. Peace Camp brings in local artists, musicians, and mentors to visit the children.

In 2010, the camp was held August 2-6 at Grace Lutheran Church. On August 5, the SAC provided a local foods lunch to 75 campers and volunteers. ALUUC members and friends also participated in the camp as volunteers, instructors and through their generous financial contributions.

- 24-Hr Prayer for Peace

ALUUC was one of twenty faith communities that participated in the September 25-26 event. For the past several years, members of the Springfield interfaith community, most recently through Grassroots InterFaith Team (GIFT), have organized an Interfaith Service around the 9/21 International Day of Peace and Ceasefire. In 2010 GIFT organized a different way to recognize the Day.

Twenty Springfield area faith communities recognized the International Day of Peace by praying for all nations and areas of the world through a 24-Hour Prayer for Peace around the World. Organizers assigned every time zone on earth to a corresponding hour. Different faith communities signed up for a particular hour during which they prayed for that time zone's area of the world, its people, its environment and related issues. ALUUC's assigned hour was Saturday, September 25 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and was held in the Sanctuary at ALUUC. The Social Action Committee organized readings and music representing our religious tradition. Bonnie Ettinger provided the accompaniment and Delinda Chapman led us in a walking meditation.

- Springfield Race Unity Rally

ALUUC was a co-sponsor for the June 5 annual Springfield Race Unity Rally that was held at the Old State Capitol. The SAC contributed \$50 to the event.

- Springfield Overflow Shelter

On the first Sunday of each month (December 5, January 2, February 6 and March 6), several members and friends of ALUUC provided a meal to the Springfield Overflow Shelter. The shelter houses those homeless who do not have a bed in any of the other homeless shelters in Springfield. Arena Catering prepared the meals (cost of \$5.50 per person) and volunteers met at the Hoogland Center to pick up the food before going to S.O.S. ALUUC members and friends also contributed funds (October 31, \$432; December 19, \$588.75) to support the monthly meal.

- Third Annual Slow Food® Film Festival January 28

On January 28, ALUUC, in partnership with Slow Food Springfield and the University of Illinois Extension organized and presented the film, "*DIRT! The Movie.*" The event also included a panel discussion following the film, refreshments and beverages prepared by 5Flavors Catering, a resource table and the sale of Fair Trade products.

Social Action Committee Members include David Brunson, Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant (chair), Delinda Chapman, Vinnie Gupta, Teresa Liberati, John Malan, Sally Millichamp, Kim Nair, Brian Otwell, Neha Patel-Dunkirk, Susan Solon, and Doug Liberati (ALUUC Vice-President/Committee Coordinator and Board Committee Liaison).