

EDITION NO.2: JUNE 25TH, 2018

THE OLIVE BRANCH

activism

education

nonviolence



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QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:



"REMEMBER, REMEMBER ALWAYS, THAT ALL OF US, AND YOU AND I ESPECIALLY, ARE DESCENDED FROM IMMIGRANTS AND REVOLUTIONISTS."

-FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/HOUSTONPEACEANDJUSTICECENTER/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HOUSTONPEACEANDJUSTICECENTER/) • IG: HPJCENTER

WWW.HPJC.ORG -- BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



Enter to Win a Pair of Tickets!

Andrew Lloyd Webber's

Love Never Dies

Support Peace Camp & HPJC

RAFFLE!

We are raffling two pairs of tickets to *Love Never Dies*, the sequel to the musical *Phantom of the Opera*.

Visit www.hpjc.org and click the link in the middle of the page!



Peace Camp 2018 - Ongoing!

PEACE EDUCATION IN DIVERSITY

“Justice” will be the theme for Peace Camp 2018. This is an alternative day camp from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM for ages 5-18. This program will focus on developing inner peace and developing problem-solving skills. Yoga, gardening, visits from special guests, using puppets, co-operative games, and cooking are some of the activities planned. Although several sessions are at churches, the camp is not religious. Volunteers are needed in all areas, so contact Judy Hoffhien at judithhoffhien@sbcglobal.net if interested. Tuition is \$185, and some scholarships are available. With violence permeating our culture, let’s make peace education a priority.



REMAINING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Emerson Unitarian Church | July 9th to July 13th

Cameron Retreat Center | July 23rd to July 27th

First Unitarian Universalist Church | July 30th to August 3rd



Dominican Sisters of Houston Show Support for Immigrants

During their annual convocation from JUNE 1st-3rd, the Dominican Sisters of Houston adopted the following statement in support of the immigrant community:

"The Dominican Sisters of Houston call on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration legislation. Our present immigration system is broken, denies basic human rights to immigrants, and ignores the oppressive living conditions that force people to migrate.

We support just and compassionate immigration reform that includes: a process for undocumented persons to achieve permanent residency and a path to citizenship; viable legal avenues for immigration; family-based immigration to assure the unity of families; restoration of due process protections for immigrants; labor protections for undocumented workers; and policies to address the root causes of migration.

Further, we support the undocumented immigrant community, especially now when families are unjustifiably torn apart, through advocacy on behalf of detainees and their family members."

Sharing Ramadan: A Muslim-Jewish Iftar

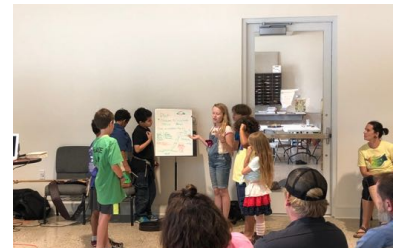
Members of the HPJC twice attended Muslim-Jewish interfaith Iftars (evening meals to single the closing of day of fasting) during Ramadan 2018. During these conversations we learned about the many similarities between the two religions and of the many international peace efforts happening. The dialogues attended were sponsored by local Houston group, "My Neighbor's Keeper."





Peace Camp 2018

On JUNE 15th, the Houston Peace and Justice Center's Summer Peace Camp hosted 26 youths excited about peace! The first week of camp was a big success at the lovely, new Mennonite Church. The students enjoyed guided meditation, yoga, painting on canvases, sewing superhero logos and bags, drama, and other activities. The non-profit group, Houston Community ToolBank, loaned HPJC the Imagination Playground, which everyone enjoyed. Special guests shared about helping the homeless in Houston, problems with immigration, and teaching students with visual impairments. There was also a friend who is a paraplegic who visited and talked about her life. A drum circle was also fun and entertaining. Several youth even wrote a skit about the environment and made it into a video which will be uploaded to YouTube and the HPJC website. New friendships were formed and a better understanding of justice helped to enrich young lives. A special thanks to volunteers Jeff, Gina, and Carol who donated their time and materials to make this such a worthwhile week. There are 4 more sessions of camp, and funds are especially needed for scholarships. See peacecamphouston.org, or hpjc.org for more information. Help support our efforts to make Houston a beloved community!





Juneteenth 2018

Juneteenth is an annual festival on June 19th to commemorate the 1865 emancipation of African Americans from slavery in Texas. It is a festival primarily celebrated by African Americans, but it should be celebrated by all Americans because when our African American brothers and sisters were freed from the chains of slavery, all Americans were also freed. However, we still have a long way to go to fully embrace this freedom. Racism continues to raise its ugly head in our nation. Convict leasing, Jim Crow laws and lynchings plagued America following Emancipation. Mass incarceration, which disenfranchises hundreds of thousands of African Americans, plagues our nation today. Racism is obvious in the words and actions of many people today, including high-level politicians. So we need to continue the work of emancipation. We need to free our minds of any racist or bigoted attitudes we may have - both conscious and unconscious. I suggest there are two ways to do this. One is to participate in the programs sponsored by the Center for the Healing of Racism in Houston. A second way is to make a conscious effort to become friends with people who are different from you: people of different races, ethnicities, religions and sexual orientation. I firmly believe that we are called to become the “Beloved Community” espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Participating in the events of Juneteenth is one way to move in that direction. -Dave Atwood





USA: Policy of separating children from parents is nothing short of torture

18 June 2018, 17:53 UTC

"The sickening images of children cruelly separated from their parents and held in cages as a result of Attorney General Jeff Sessions' policy of 'zero-tolerance' will leave an indelible stain on the reputation of the USA, said Amnesty International today.

'This is a spectacularly cruel policy, where frightened children are being ripped from their parent's arms and taken to overflowing detention centres, which are effectively cages. This is nothing short of torture. The severe mental suffering that officials have intentionally inflicted on these families for coercive purposes, means that these acts meet the definitions of torture under both US and international law,' said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Amnesty International's Americas Director.

Click here for the full report: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/06/usa-family-separation-torture/>

USA Leaves the UN Human Rights Council

19 June 2018, 22:49 UTC



US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley speaks during a news briefing at the White House, September 15, 2017. (AP/Carolyn Kaster)

"Following the announcement that the United States will leave the United Nations Human Rights Council, Salil Shetty, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said:

'The USA is wilfully choosing to undermine the human rights of all people everywhere, and their struggles for justice.'

Click here for the full report:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/06/usa-leaves-un-human-rights-council/>



2018 Houston Pride Parade

June 22, 2018, 4:00 PM CST

"The 2018 Houston Pride Parade begins at 8 p.m. at the corner of Smith and Lamar streets and ends at 11 p.m. at the corner of Milam and Jefferson streets."

Click here for the full

article: <https://www.click2houston.com/community/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-houstons-2018-pride-parade>



Houston Pride Parade, June 24, 2017.

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Court Case Alleges Children in US Custody Were Drugged

June 22, 2018 5:11PM EDT

"A case filed in a California court alleges that children in United States custody are being forcibly drugged to control them at detention facilities.

The case focuses on children who are held by the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement."

Click here for the full article: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/06/22/court-case-alleges-children-us-custody-were-drugged>



Unaccompanied minors are seen at the Bristow facility, in this photo provided by the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, in Bristow, Virginia, U.S., June 21, 2018. © 2018 Reuters



**Join us for the Annual Houston Peace and Justice Center
Peacemaker Awards Dinner on Sunday, November 11th at 5:30pm!**

On NOVEMBER 11th, 2018, the Houston Peace and Justice Center will be hosting the Annual Peacemaker Awards Dinner, where HPJC will be presenting CHUCK COLLINS, the author and co-founder of Wealth for Common Good with the 2018 HPJC National Peacemaker Award and welcoming him as the keynote speaker for the dinner.

CHUCK COLLINS is a "1 percenter" who gave up his inheritance to become an activist and writer concerned with income equality. He is currently a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, where he directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good.



The Houston Peace and Justice Center will also be honoring Dr. Gerald Horne, the Houston chapter of United We Dream, and the nonprofit Children's Prison Arts Project as recipients of the 2018 HPJC Local Peacemaker Awards.



**Early Discount tickets can be found online at
HPJC.com beginning July 8th!**