

Pivot Homeward

A series of congregational conversations on global peace and justice issues

*We advocate a culture of peace through a transformation of public policies,
religious consciousness, and individual lifestyles. – www.uua.org/statements/creating-peace (2010)*

“Pivot Homeward” is a series of discussions about ending militarism as the central tool of U.S. foreign policy -- and re-dedicating the treasure spent on war to solving problems here at home. We ask, “What would the U.S. economy, society, and foreign policy look like if they followed UU principles (especially the 6th), and what actions can we take as UUs to move our nation away from violence, and towards nonviolent solutions?” We will take a look at possible civic and political actions individuals can take at the local, state, and national levels.

The nine discussions will be held on the last **Friday** of each month, at UUCR, in Founders Hall (FDH) or Bldg 2, 7:30-9:00pm, led by members of the Peace Studies Group. Childcare will be available on request. We suggest readings of two or three articles per session; pick up some at the Sunday SJC table during coffee; many are free at the webpages cited below.

The phrase "Pivot Homeward" (as opposed to a U.S. "pivot toward Asia," or anywhere else) suggests that, since the bi-polar Cold War is over, Americans can choose to shed our superpower status, curb our military-industrial complex and interventionist foreign policy, shine sunlight on our secret war-makers, deemphasize militarism and punishment in our criminal justice system, and redirect spending on war toward **infrastructure, health, education, and sustainable development** here at home. This is an open forum, where all perspectives will be valued and seriously listened to. Questions, doubts, and critique of this main theme, as well as the specific topic of each discussion, are welcome.

Facilitators and guest discussants aim to create a supportive atmosphere of inquiry, to help those in attendance learn about issues, history, and the huge array of civic actions that citizens may choose among. We make a special effort to invite persons who have experience with other cultures, conflict resolution, and/or war, and to encourage their contributions at these gatherings. We strive to follow these guidelines: www.uua.org/re/adults/group-facilitation. Contact/facilitators: *Steven Lapham, musktratmusic@gmail.com; and Alonzo Smith, alonzosmith2015@gmail.com*

August 26th, 2016, 7:30pm, in Founders Hall (FDH). * From Fallujah to Ferguson: Violence in the Global Village. Witnessing, every day, the “blowback” of war. Where are the paths to nonviolence?

Recommended Readings: www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/11/how-the-war-on-terror-has-militarized-the-police/248047 www.ips-dc.org/became-era-gunman www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/larocqueterkel.html M.L. King, Jr., “Beyond Vietnam” - kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu	UU Connections: www.uua.org/worship/collections/black-lives-matter uupeacemakers.org
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September 30th, 2016, 7:30pm, FDH. * How might we responsibly retire 500+ U.S. military bases and installations overseas?” How might we construct a plan for the gradual disengagement of our military? How do others see us?

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/06/19/okinawa-protest-marines/86110434/ www.occasionalplanet.org/2015/10/26/case-closing-overseas-military-bases	UU’s Okinawa Speaking Tour: www.facebook.com/events/480816062089582/?active_tab=highlights
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October 28th 2016, 7:30pm, Bldg. 2 * How can we curb the CIA's foreign policy of assassination by robot drone? Kick the habit of secret assassinations? Can America reign in its "unitary presidency," with unchecked powers to kill?

www.codepink.org/drone_fact_sheet www.ips-dc.org/coming-drone-blowback https://theintercept.com/2016/03/08/nobody-knows-the-identity-of-the-150-people-killed-by-u-s-in-somalia-but-most-are-certain-they-deserved-it/ www.democracynow.org/2013/10/31/too_scared_to_go_outside_family drones.pitchinteractive.com	UU Chaplain Resigns over Drones, (6/3/2016), www.democracynow.org/2016/6/3/i_refuse_to_serve_as_an Rev. Chris Antal "Viewpoint" (5/11/2016), uucr.org/viewpoint-drone-warfare/
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November 25th, 2016, 7:30pm FDH. * How can we halt and reverse the "new nuclear arms race" that Obama inaugurated with a pledge of \$1 Trillion? Can we decommission the ballistic missiles, which travel the globe in ½ hour?

armscontrolcenter.org/factsheets www.huffingtonpost.com/elliott-negin/on-the-a-bombs-70th-anniv_b_7953126.html	Nuclear Disarmament Task Force page: www.allsoulsnyc.org * Search on "Forgotten Giant: A Powell Davis" at dmeformpeace.org
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January 27th 2017, 7:30pm. TBD * Might we re-deploy \$80 Billion for long-range Northrop bombers to providing clean drinking water in Flint? Can Montgomery County's corporations of death shift to social good? Economic conversion.

www.ips-dc.org/projects/peace-economy-transitions/njfac.org/index.php/they-are-all-implicated-in-the-grip-of-a-permanent-war-economy/ * Dwight D. Eisenhower, "The Military Industrial Complex," 1961.	www.uua.org/statements/economic-conversion-peace-and-human-needs
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February 24th 2017, 7:30pm. FDH. * How can we publicize and support ongoing acts of Palestine/Israel fraternization and conflict resolution?

www.ips-dc.org/breaking_the_israel-palestine_impasse/ www.theguardian.com/world/rachel-corrie www.seedsofpeace.org * www.handinhandk12.org	UU Connections: uujme.org/home www.uuworld.org/articles/uuaga2016-palestinian-rights-resolution
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March 2017. TBD - How can we support Vets, Active Duty, and COs? How to narrow the civilian/soldier divide in U.S. society?

www.militaryfamiliespeakout.com * resisters.ca (they fled to Canada) www.ivaw.org/press-0 * www.ivaw.org/resources	www.uua.org/directory/where/military www.uuworld.org/articles/uu-war-questions
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April 2017. TBD - Global Warming: How does the human quest for minerals (esp. oil), water, and paths of conveyance cause war? What are alternatives?

www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-faith-organizations-and-climate-change www.ecowatch.com/syria-another-pipeline-war-1882180532.html	UU Connections: www.uua.org/environment/climate
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May 2017. TBD - How can we advocate for a U.S. Foreign Policy of intense *Nonviolent* involvement and multinationalism?

www.aeinstein.org/198-methods-of-nonviolent-action/ www.ips-dc.org/projects/new-internationalism/ www.winwithoutwar.org/ worldbeyondwar.org/unitedstates/	www.facebook.com/uuneedham/posts/1317782654914782 www.uuworld.org/articles/prophetic-nonviolence A. Powell Davis , "About being an American," in <i>The Urge to Persecute</i> (Beacon, 1953)
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