



End of Our Program Year - Looking Back

(2017-2018)

Much of our IRT programming happens between September and June, making this a good time to look back at what we invested time and money into in support of our mission - helping to create a culture of understanding and inclusion.

We work hard at two things. First, we look for ways to help people of faith come to know and better understand people of other faith traditions, thereby helping to reduce prejudice and misunderstandings. Second, we try to identify where the societal hurts are and respond with meaningful conversations that can help address those hurts. 2017-18 have included both.

You may have attended or been involved in one or more of the following:

- In August we hosted, with the help of ICPJ, an anti-racism at the **ANN ARBOR SKATE PARK**, the energy from which helped in writing and circulating an anti-hatred statement following the tragedy in Charlottesville, NC.
- Our **DAY FORUMS** for the fall, winter and spring concentrated on issues of white supremacy, racism, violence and hatred, and the dangers of sabre rattling on the political landscape.
- In October Susan offered a four week course called **REACHING ACROSS DIFFERENCE: CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER IN TODAY'S WORLD**.
- Also in October, George taught a class at First Congregational Church called "**PEACE MAKING IN A WORLD OF FEAR AND HOSTILITY**".
- The fall saw us start a partnership with a new initiative by Abby Wells called the **IT MATTERS TO ME PROJECT**.
- This year's community **INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION** was hosted by Beth Israel Congregation. Approximately 190 attended with 50 people arriving early to listen to Rabbi Dobrusin explain the important details of their worship space and the Torah scrolls
- In December we participated in the annual **MISSION FAIR** at the First Presbyterian Church.
- In January we held our annual **FACES OF FAITH** program, attended this year by about 150 people. Six religious leaders from different faith traditions, both professional and lay, were asked to tell their stories. Presenters were from Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Unitarian Universalist religions. This was the first year that we provided a parallel track for high school student. Participation was close to 30 students.
- In April Susan offered a second session of the course **REACHING ACROSS DIFFERENCE: CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER IN TODAY'S WORLD**.
- Also in April we held our second Children's Choir Concert, **VOICES OF CHILDREN: BE THE CHANGE**. Over 200 people attended, and children's choirs came from Temple Beth Emeth, St. Clare's Episcopal, the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation and the Chinmaya Mission.