

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
2017 INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR**



United Nations  
Office



**April 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in New York City**

This annual intergenerational seminar brings together people from all over North America to work together and learn more about being global activists. Through interactive panel discussions, workshops, worship, and community building activities, participants will be equipped to understand and respond to today's pressing issues.

# SCHEDULE

Time	Wednesday, April 5	Thursday, April 6	Friday, April 7	Saturday, April 8
7:00	* only for Youth & Sponsors ^ only for Ministers	Breakfast Served 7:00 - 9:00	Breakfast Served 7:00 - 9:00	Breakfast Served 7:00 - 9:00
7:30				
8:00				
8:30				
9:00				
9:30		Collaboration Groups 9:45 - 10:15	Morning Worship 9:45 - 10:30	Saturday Worship 9:45 - 11:00
10:00		Opening Worship 10:15 - 11:00		
10:30				
11:00				
11:30		Keynote Speaker 11:10 - 11:50	Workshop 11:15 - 1:15	Seminar Statement 11:10 - 11:30
12:00	Collaboration Groups 11:50 - 12:30	Taking it Home Activity 11:30 - 1:00		
12:30	Lunch Served 12:30 - 1:15			
1:00		Lunch Served 1:15 - 2:30		
1:30				
2:00				
2:30		Workshop 2:30 - 4:00		
3:00				
3:30	Panel Discussion at RKK Buddhist Center 3:00 - 5:00			
4:00				
4:30		Collaboration Groups 4:15 - 5:30		
5:00	Ministers' Reception^ 5:00 - 7:00			Action Fair 5:30 - 6:30
5:30				
6:00	Dinner Served* 6:00 - 7:00			
6:30		Dinner & Evening Activity 6:30 - 8:30	Night on the Town* 7:00 - 10:00	
7:00	Orientation* 7:00 - 9:30			
7:30				
8:00				
8:30		Evening Worship 8:30 - 9:30		
9:00				
9:30				
10:00				

## Participant Covenant for Intergenerational Spring Seminar

### Policy on Sexuality and Community for All Participants

While sexuality is a healthy and important part of young people's lives, there are times and places where sexual behavior is inappropriate. This policy seeks to create a healthy and safe space for all participants. Exclusive relationships detract from the community. All participants must abide by the following policies:

- Participants must respect each other's physical boundaries.
  - Participants shall refrain from sexual, seductive or erotic behavior while at the event.
  - Sexual behavior between participants at the event and sexual harassment are not permitted and will not be tolerated.
    - *Any harassment regarding race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or disability will not be tolerated. Such harassment includes unsolicited remarks, gestures or physical contact, display or circulation of written materials or derogatory pictures directed at any of these categories. In addition, sexual advances, jokes, explicit or offensive pictures, requests for sexual favors, sexting, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment.*
  - The event leadership team is responsible for ensuring this policy is enforced. Parents/guardians are invited to discuss this policy with youth.
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### Code of Ethics for Adults

Adults who work with youth are in positions of power and play a key role in the spiritual and identity development of younger members of the community. Therefore, it is especially important that adults be qualified to provide the special nurture, care, and support that will enable youth to develop a healthy, positive sense of self and responsibility. Youth and adults suffer damaging effects when adults become sexually involved with young persons in their care; therefore, adults will not engage in any physical, sexual, seductive, erotic or romantic behavior with youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with youth which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

Adults are expected to identify and report suspicion of use or possession of illegal substances, harassment, abuse, and sexual or other misconduct, and will not engage in such behaviors themselves. In addition to their reporting obligations to the UUA, certain UUA employees are mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect of students as specified by applicable state law.

### Behavioral Guidelines for Participants

- Respect the Policy on Sexuality and Community and Code of Ethics for Adults above.
- No drugs, weapons, or alcohol.
- No pets.
- All participants will remain on-site during the event.
- Adults must remain in the role of advisor at all times.
- Participants must provide all requested, signed permission and release forms.

## About Intergenerational Spring Seminar 2017

Social justice is an integral part of our beliefs as Unitarian Universalists. Our seven principles revolve around the idea that every person both deserves and needs respect, and that it is our duty to ensure that those needs are met. Every spring, UUs and others from the United States and beyond come together for the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office's Intergenerational Seminar. Our goal is not only to learn about the injustices of this world, but also to figure out how to stop them.

Together, we can be a very strong force. Each year focuses on a different social justice topic. Past themes have included international criminal justice, sexual orientation and gender identity, indigenous rights, and most recently race and inequality.

This year's Spring Seminar, titled ***Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet***, we will consider interfaith engagement with issues such as reducing gun violence and the proliferation of small arms, nuclear disarmament and the abolition of other weapons of mass destruction, use of unmanned weaponized drones, racial justice implications and consequences of armed violence, and strengthening global peace and security.

Programming will be interactive, encouraging participants to reflect on how the topics addressed affect them in their lives, their spirituality, and how they are called to respond. Moving from ideas to concrete action, participants will learn tools and skills to help them with future collaboration and activism. Each person will participate in an intergenerational Collaboration Group, touching base periodically throughout the seminar to reflect on and process the issues discussed.

At the end of the seminar, participants will use new-found knowledge to collaboratively draft a statement to be delivered to the United Nations and to Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. We are committed to global equality and support the United Nations in this endeavor.

We hope to leave this year's seminar motivated and empowered to work with our communities and leaders to make a better world for both our generation and future generations to come.

We are proud to be partnering with the **Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice** ([uucsj.org](http://uucsj.org)) in the planning and programming for this Spring Seminar! UUCSJ will be leading a program during the Seminar focused on sustaining spiritually-engaged social justice activism in this challenging political moment.



This project is funded in part by the Fund for Unitarian Universalism.

## Seminar Staff

The Intergenerational Spring Seminar is led by a team of Deans who work with the UU-UNO Staff and volunteer Planning Committee to make the Seminar possible. The Deans for this year's Seminar are Martin Tomlinson (Senior Youth Dean), Max Solomon-Frye (Junior Youth Dean), and Liz Roper (Adult Dean).

Our Spring Seminar Chaplain Team is available throughout the Seminar to support participants and ensure that the Seminar is a rich and rewarding experience for everyone here. Chaplains will be wearing pink bandanas at all times – please don't hesitate to reach out to them in case you're feeling overwhelmed, unsure or uncomfortable about something, or you just need someone to talk to.

**\*\*The majority of the programming will take place in the Ballroom, New York Room, and SoHo Room. All 3 are in HI New York at 891 Amsterdam Avenue on the Upper West Side of Manhattan\*\***

### · **Wednesday** · April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*\*\* Registration Open from 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm: New York Room \*\**

**5:00 pm – Ministers' Welcome Reception (Ministers)**

Café du Soleil

2723 Broadway, New York, NY 10025

**6:00 pm – Dinner Served (Youth & Sponsors)**

Ballroom

**7:00 pm – Orientation and Covenanting Session (Youth & Sponsors)  
& Evening worship**

Ballroom

· **Thursday** ·

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*\*\* Registration Open from 7:00 am – 9:30 am: New York Room \*\**

**7:00 am – 9:00 am: *Breakfast (provided)***

SoHo Room

**9:45 am – Collaboration Group Meetings**

Ballroom

**10:15 am – Opening Worship, “*Building Bridges*”**

*Led by Rev. Schuyler Vogel*

Ballroom

**11:10 am – Keynote Speaker, “*Left of Boom: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet*”**

*Rev. Chris Antal*

Ballroom

**11:50 am – Collaboration Group Meetings**

Ballroom

***Lunch (provided)***

*Travel to the Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center*

*320 E 39<sup>th</sup> Street (Directions on pg. 17)*

**3:00 pm – Global Disarmament Panel, “*Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet*”**

*Ray Acheson, Chris King, Amb. Caleb Otto, Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, & Hiro Sakurai*

Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center

*Return to HI New York*

***Dinner (provided)***

**6:30 pm – Evening Activity, “*Arte - Peace and Empowerment Through the Arts*”**

*Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario*

Ballroom

**8:30 pm – Evening Worship**

Ballroom

**· Friday ·**  
**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*\*\* Registration Open from 7:00 am – 9:30 am: New York Room\*\**

**7:00 am – 9:00 am: *Breakfast (provided)***

SoHo Room

**9:45 am – Morning Worship, “*Activating Hope*”**

*Anna Mijnlief, Terri Pahucki, Serik Tokbolat*

Ballroom

**10:30 am – Collaboration Group Meetings**

Ballroom

**11:15 am – Spiritually Engaged Activism Workshops:**

*Youth: “Re-Charging to Resist and Getting Grounded to Grow!”*

*Ballroom*

*Adults: “Exploring Spirituality & Social Justice through Stories that Strengthen and Sustain Our  
 Activism”*

*SoHo Room*

*\*\*Ministers travel to Morningside Library (See page 8 for ministers’ programming!)\*\**

***Lunch (provided)***

*During lunch: Envoy Meeting in the SoHo Room*

**2:30 pm – Racial Justice Workshop – “*Race and Violence: The Role of Arms in Wars  
 Abroad, in American Cities, in our Homes & in our Justice-seeking Hearts*”**

*Michael T. McPhearson, Rose Welsch, Albert Saint Jean*

Ballroom

**4:15 pm – Collaboration Group Meetings**

Ballroom

**5:30 pm – Action Fair**

Ballroom & New York Room

**7:00 pm – Youth Night on the Town**

Meet: Ballroom

## ***Friday Ministers' Programming at Morningside Library***

11:15 am – 4:00 pm, 2900 Broadway (Directions on pg. 18)

### **11:15 am – Ministers' session 1 - "Worship and International Engagement"**

*Led by Rev. Eric Cherry*

Morningside Library

**Lunch (provided)**

### **2:30 pm – Ministers' session 2 - "Ministerial Leadership Confronting Armed Violence"**

*Led by Rev. Chris Antal and Rev. Bob Moore*

Morningside Library

*\*\* Ministers travel back to HI New York for 4:15pm Collaboration Group Meetings \*\**

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## **· Saturday ·**

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*\*\* Registration Open from 8:30 am – 9:30 am: New York Room \*\**

**7:00 am – 9:00 am: *Breakfast (provided)***

SoHo Room

**9:45 am – Morning Worship, "*Yesterday Teaches Tomorrow: Worship by the Elements*"**

*Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout*

Ballroom

**11:10 am – Statement Reading**

Ballroom

**11:30 – "Taking it Home" Activity**

Ballroom



# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**\*\*Unless otherwise noted, events are located in either the Ballroom or SoHo Room at HI New York, 891 Amsterdam Ave.\*\***

## **Collaboration Group Meetings**

***Thursday, 9:45 am – 10:15 am; 11:50 am – 12:30 pm, Ballroom***

***Friday, 10:30am – 11 am; 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm, Ballroom***

The collaboration group meetings will be an opportunity for seminar participants to connect with each other on a smaller group basis throughout the conference. Participants will be divided up into groups of 9 or 10 participants and will have a space to share and discuss their thoughts and concerns on the topics of the seminar.

## **Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

### ***For Ministers Only - Ministers' Welcome Reception***

***Wednesday, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Café du Soleil***

Gather with your clergy colleagues and the UUA's International Office for conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and fun!

### ***For Youth & Sponsors Only - Orientation and Covenanting Session***

***Wednesday, 7pm – 9:30 pm, Ballroom***

As we come together for our time of work, we will be challenged personally and collectively. In order to hold each other in a safe space to explore and grown, we create a covenant – A set of promises of how we will behave with one another and support one another in our work. This will be created collaboratively as one of our first acts as a group.

## **Thursday, April 6, 2017**

### **Opening Worship – “Building Bridges”**

***Thursday, 10:15 am – 11:00 am, Ballroom***

*Rev. Schuyler Vogel*

Join us for opening worship as we bring our minds, spirits, and hearts together in preparation for our days together. Amidst the chaos of our daily lives, and all the noise, confusion, and fear of the current political climate, we join in the spirit of this community present at the 2017 Spring Seminar to build bridges toward our common vision of a world filled with the transforming power of justice and love.

### **Keynote Speaker – “Left of Boom: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet”**

**Thursday, 11:10 am – 11:50 am, Ballroom**

*Rev. Chris Antal*

What is going on? Why is it going on? What ought to be going on? What do we do next? We will consider the situation through various lenses including theology, psychology, history, and technology. Our inquiry will build the capacity of participants to respond to armed violence with religiously grounded public witness. This includes both creating sanctuary for all who are harmed by armed violence and resisting structures and systems that perpetuate armed violence. We will meet doom and gloom with humor and hope.

### **Global Disarmament Panel – “Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet”**

**Thursday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Risho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center**

*Ray Acheson, Chris King, Ambassador Caleb Otto, Glen Thomas Rideout & Hiro Sakurai*

This panel will address various perspectives on why disarmament is so important: Ambassador Caleb Otto speaks as a native of Palau which has experienced the effects of nuclear testing; Ray Acheson speaks of the historic, unprecedented, current work on a UN treaty banning nuclear weapons; Hiro Sakurai provides an interfaith perspective in outreach to youth addressing disarmament and the horrors of nuclear weapons; Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout discusses the real and disproportionate use of armed violence in our inner cities; and Chris King addresses conventional weapons of mass destruction, the damage they cause, the importance of his UN office and how the audience can help.

*Moderated by Bruce Knotts*

### **Evening Activity – “Arte- Peace and Empowerment Through the Arts”**

**Thursday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Ballroom**

*Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario*

The Thursday evening event will be a hands-on activity for both the youth and the adults. The goal of the activity is to encourage creative brainstorming through the arts around the issue of disarmament in our communities. Another goal would be create a space where participants can work on art in groups and their own pieces of art focusing on social justice. Youth and the adults will view examples of art being used as a tool for social justice, work in groups to brainstorm ways to use art to address issues on disarmament and continue working on his/her piece of art from the Quilt Disarmament Project.

### **Evening Worship**

**Thursday, 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Ballroom**

Youth led worship inspired by Bob Marley lyrics. Get ready for an interactive time for reflection and meaning-making!

## **Friday, April 7, 2017**

### **Friday Morning Worship – “Activating Hope”**

**Friday, 9:45 am – 10:30 am, Ballroom**

*Anna Mijnlief, Terri Pahucki, Serik Tokbolat*

This service will serve as a bridge-- moving us from the deep learning of Thursday’s program-- into Friday’s program, which is focused on activism and collaboration. The service will acknowledge the experience and feelings of the past day, while activating our collective power to respond.

### **Spiritually Engaged Workshops**

**Friday, 11:15 am – 1:15 pm, Ballroom & SoHo Room**

*Youth, Ballroom.* “Re-Charging to Resist and Getting Grounded to Grow!”

*Angela Kelly, Clara Kraebber, Marissa Gutiérrez-Vicario*

In this youth-focused workshop, participants will reflect on the linkages between their spirituality and social justice activism. With moments of song, creativity, and connection, we will co-create a safe space in which to talk about how our spiritual practices help us maintain self-care while engaging in activism, and give us courage to face the fears raised by the current political climate. Join us to build a community of shared strength and inspiration that uplifts the power of youth to create social change.

*Adults, SoHo Room.* “Exploring Spirituality & Social Justice through Stories that Strengthen and Sustain Our Activism”

*Lillyanne Daigle, Meagan Henry, Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson*

This workshop for adults will focus on sustaining spiritually-engaged social justice activism in this challenging political moment. We will begin with sharing the practices that inspire and restore us, and stories that remind us of our courage and persistence. We will then explore three current campaigns that seek to disrupt armed violence and the violence of injustice (Black Lives Matter, Expanded Sanctuary, and Global Zero), considering narratives that are rooted in our values and visions for a better future, and how they propel us to more effective action.

### **Ministers’ session 1: “Worship and International Engagement”**

**Friday, 11:15am – 1:15pm, Morningside Library**

*For ministers only.* Led by Rev. Eric Cherry – This will be a participatory session that will address how to incorporate international engagement into congregational life, particularly through worship. Effective Unitarian Universalist worship services address international realities, including how those intersect with domestic policy.

### **Envoy Lunch!**

**Friday, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm, SoHo Room**

Join UU-UNO staff and other current & prospective Envoys to get to know each other and the work being done by Envoys in congregations near and far!

**Racial Justice Workshop – “Race and Violence: The Role of Arms in Wars Abroad, in American Cities, in *our* Homes & in our Justice-seeking Hearts”**

***Friday, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm, Ballroom***

*Michael T. McPhearson, Rose Welsch, Albert Saint Jean*

Guns, tanks and nuclear weapons are utilized to reinforce existing racial prejudices, and engage vulnerable communities in cycles of violence and poverty. The recent mass killings of unarmed black Americans are examples of how the state and hate-filled individuals utilize weapons to subject vulnerable populations to layers of coercion and control. U.S. facilitated and led wars abroad have led to the militarization of cities; repressing people then leads to national liberation and progressive social movements. The “war on terror” has been used to terrorize Muslim communities, target young social activists and result in mass deportations. Beyond the United States the role of guns penetrate deep into the homes of vulnerable communities, and fuels domestic violence and gang related deaths. This workshop will broaden your knowledge about the various implications of arms. There will be special identity based spaces to digest the information, and create roadmap of your resistance.

**Ministers’ session 2: “Ministerial Leadership Confronting Armed Violence”**

***Friday, 2:30 pm – 4:15 pm, Morningside Library***

*For ministers only.* Led by Rev. Chris Antal and Rev. Bob Moore – A presentation and conversation about the issues at stake in our current political climate and how ministers can be active in responding to them. The workshop will particularly address the seminar’s theme of disarming our planet, but it also presents an opportunity for activist ministers to learn from each other and share experiences in any number of areas.

**Action Fair**

***Friday, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, Ballroom & New York Room***

A new featured event for the 2017 Seminar, the Action Fair will offer an array of opportunities to put into action and get some meaningful practice with the ideas and skills learned throughout the Seminar. Activist-oriented activities will include: practicing elevator pitches, role-playing discussions of controversial positions, creating wearable buttons and signs for actions or issues, promoting actions and issues on social media, and more.

**Youth Night on the Town**

***Friday, 7pm – 10pm, Meet in the Ballroom***

*For Youth & Sponsors Only.* We are in the big apple - why would we miss the chance to see some of the sights?! This evening is a time to let our hair down and explore the big city in smaller groups. We will have choices from the Staten Island ferry ride to see the statue of liberty to walking the High Line to take in the floating gardens above the city, checking out some famous eateries or big city shopping and more.

## **Saturday, April 8, 2017**

### **Saturday Morning Worship – “Yesterday Teaches Tomorrow: Worship by the Elements”**

**9:45 am – 11:00 am, Saturday, Ballroom**

Join Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Worship Leader and dynamic Music Director of First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor in our closing worship service. Ritual and music will allow us to integrate the learning of the week with a call to action as we return to our individual homes.

### **Statement Reading**

**11:10 am – 11:30 am, Saturday, Ballroom**

*UU-UNO and Spring Seminar Staff*

The collaborative Seminar Statement created on Friday afternoon by Seminar participants will be read and staff from the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office will share information on how to continue engagement with the office and with the issues addressed throughout the seminar.

### **Taking It Home Activity**

**11:30 – 12:30 pm, Saturday, Ballroom**

Wrap up the seminar experience with an interactive look back at all we've learned as we prepare to take these learnings home to create action in our communities.

## **Featured Speakers**

### **Ray Acheson**

*Thursday afternoon: "Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet"*

Ray Acheson is the Director of Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). She has been engaging with intergovernmental disarmament processes since 2005, providing reporting and analysis on nuclear weapons, the international arms trade, and more. Ray represents WILPF, the oldest feminist peace organization in the world, on the international steering group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). She has an MA in Politics from The New School for Social Research and an Honours BA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Toronto.

### **Rev. Chris J. Antal**

*Thursday morning: "Left of Boom: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet", Keynote Speaker*

*Friday afternoon: "Ministerial Leadership Confronting Armed Violence"*

The Rev. Chris J. Antal is the called and settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern, New York and staff chaplain in the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center. In Afghanistan he witnessed U.S. drones and in Japan he met atomic bomb survivors and since then has joined the growing number of religious voices resisting U.S. drone and nuclear weapon policy. He recently represented the Unitarian Universalist Association in a delegation of religious leaders who met with staff members of the National Security Council to express concerns about the targeted killing program.

### **Rev. Eric Cherry**

*Friday morning: "Worship and International Engagement"*

Rev. Eric M. Cherry has been the Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's International Office since August 2007. In this position, Eric manages the UUA's relationships with U/U and interfaith partners around the world, provides resources for congregational international engagement, and supervises the staff of the UU Holdeen India Program and UU United Nations Office.

### **Lillyanne Daigle**

*Thursday afternoon: "Exploring Spirituality & Social Justice through Stories that Strengthen and Sustain Our Activism"*

Lilly Daigle is the Network Campaigner at Global Zero. She spends her time spearheading Global Zero's mobilizations against nuclear weapons and working to make our movement more diverse and intersectional. She graduated from Warren Wilson College in 2011 with a degree in Global Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies. Alongside eliminating nuclear weapons, she's passionate about climate justice, anti-racism organizing, and is a fierce feminist.

### **Marissa Gutiérrez-Vicario**

*Thursday evening: "Arte- Peace and Empowerment Through the Arts"*

*Friday morning: "Re-Charging to Resist and Getting Grounded to Grow!"*

Marissa brings over a decade of experience of working for social justice on the ground and around the world: she worked on a documentary film on labor rights in Mexico; volunteered for women's rights nonprofits in Guatemala and Senegal; and documenting minority rights abuses

in India. In her adopted home of New York City, Marissa has worked with several non-profit organizations dedicated to youth development, community organizing, and leadership building. As a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Marissa has a master's degree in arts education. She has also received a master's degree in public administration from New York University and a bachelor's degree in political science and international relations from the University of Southern California.

### **Chris King**

*"Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet" Thursday afternoon*

Chris King is the Chief of the Strategic Planning Unit in the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. Before joining the UN, Chris served in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, most recently as First Secretary in the Australian High Commission to India. He was Acting Director of the Arms Control Section, responsible for Australian disarmament and non-proliferation policy. Chris was an advisor to former Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and the temporary Deputy Ambassador in Iraq. From 2004 to 2006, Chris was an Advisor in the National Security Division of the Australian Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

### **Bruce Knotts**

*Thursday afternoon: "Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet"*

Bruce Knotts is the Director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office. He was born and raised in Southern California. He got his Bachelor's Degree in History from Pepperdine University and his Master's Degree in International Education from the Monterey Institute of International Studies; both in California. Bruce was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia. He worked for Raytheon in Saudi Arabia and on a World Bank contract in Somalia, before he joined the Department of State as a U.S. diplomat in 1984. In 2004, Bruce was elected to the Board of Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA). Bruce retired from the Foreign Service in 2007 and joined the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office as its Executive Director at the beginning of 2008.

### **Michael T. McPhearson**

*Friday afternoon: "Race and Violence: The Role of Arms in Wars Abroad, in American Cities, in our Homes & in our Justice-seeking Hearts"*

Michael is the National Executive Director of Veterans for Peace. He is an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate of Campbell University, in North Carolina. His military career includes 5 years of active duty during which he served as a field artillery officer during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He has worked as the National Coordinator for United For Peace and Justice, is a former board member of Veterans For Peace, and has worked closely with the Newark based People's Organization for Progress and the Saint Louis centered Organization for Black Struggle. Michael is a member of the National Association of Colored People, The American Civilian Liberties Union and Military Families Speak Out.

### **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto**

*Thursday afternoon: "Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet"*

H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto is the first native Palauan to hold his post as Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations from 2013 to 2017 Prior to his UN appointment, Dr. Otto was a medical practitioner, a Senator in the Palau Congress and was active in community affairs including environmental conservation, church activities, youth and sports as well as civil

society organizations development. He is an outspoken advocate for climate action, oceans health & sustainability, mental health, tobacco control, and social justice, including breastfeeding for infants, rights of indigenous and other marginalized peoples and human right to water.

### **Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout**

*“Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet” Thursday afternoon; “Yesterday Teaches Tomorrow: Worship by the Elements” Saturday morning*

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout is Director of Worship and Music for First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he has served for ten years. Most recently, his writing on liberal religion, worship, and music have been featured at the UUA’s 2016 General Assembly and published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

### **Albert Saint Jean**

*“Race and Violence: The Role of Arms in Wars Abroad, in American Cities, in our Homes & in our Justice-seeking Hearts” Friday afternoon*

Albert Saint Jean is the New York City Organizer for BAJI, the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. Having been reared by a community oriented, politically aware Haitian-American family; Albert developed a passion for social justice and black awareness. This worldview is compounded by his exposure to diverse black communities in New Jersey, Florida, and New York. Albert’s Pan-African perspective led him to pursue a bachelor’s in Political Science with a focus on International Affairs from the University of Central Florida. Albert further prepared himself to serve his community by getting his Masters in Urban Policy from the New School, with a focus on community development. During that time he worked on community development projects in black and brown communities in West Harlem and Orange, New Jersey among others.

### **Hiro Sakurai**

*“Global Efforts to Disarm Our Planet” Thursday afternoon*

Hiro Sakurai is a representative of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) to the United Nations and the director of SGI’s UN offices in New York and Geneva. In the NGO community, Hiro has taken various responsibilities including the chair of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security and the chair of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN and has been engaged in the issues such as nuclear disarmament, culture of peace, education for sustainable development, and global citizenship education.

### **Rose Welsch**

*“Race and Violence: The Role of Arms in Wars Abroad, in American Cities, in our Homes & in our Justice-seeking Hearts” Friday afternoon*

Rose Welsch is the UN Liaison Officer for the International Action Network on Small Arms, a network of organizations working to protect people from gun violence. Previously, she served as an International Coordinator for Peace Boat, a Japan-based NGO that globally promotes peace, disarmament and sustainable development. Her passion about disarmament issues began while assigned to live in Hiroshima, Japan, where she was able to look up at the spot where an atomic bomb was dropped. Currently Rose works on the issue of small arms, an issue that has been described as "weapons of mass destruction in slow motion.



## Directions to Rissho Kosei-kai

320 E 39<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10017

(Location of Global Disarmament Panel Thursday 3-5pm)

### \*45 minutes by subway\*

Rissho Kosei-kai is located by the Queens Midtown Tunnel between 1st and 2nd Avenue on East 39th Street. It is on the southeast corner of 39th Street and a Midtown Tunnel access street. (There is a traffic light at this corner.)

Coming from the HI New York City Hostel (891 Amsterdam Ave), walk to the 103 Street Station; a left out of the hostel, cross Amsterdam Ave, and walk down W 103 St., right turn onto Broadway and station will be on your right.

Take the **1 train** going downtown (towards South Ferry) for eight stops.

Get off at Times Square (do not exit the station) look for the **7 train** platform (there will be signs and MTA officials).

Take the **7 train** towards Flushing/Main Street for two stops.

Get off at Grand Central and walk east on 42nd Street toward 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Turn right on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and walk straight, turn down 39<sup>th</sup> Street (walking towards 1<sup>st</sup> Ave) and the center will be on your right (320 E 39<sup>th</sup> Street).



X - denotes subway entrance

# Directions to Morningside Library

**2900 Broadway, New York, NY 10025**  
 (Location of Ministers' Programming on Friday)

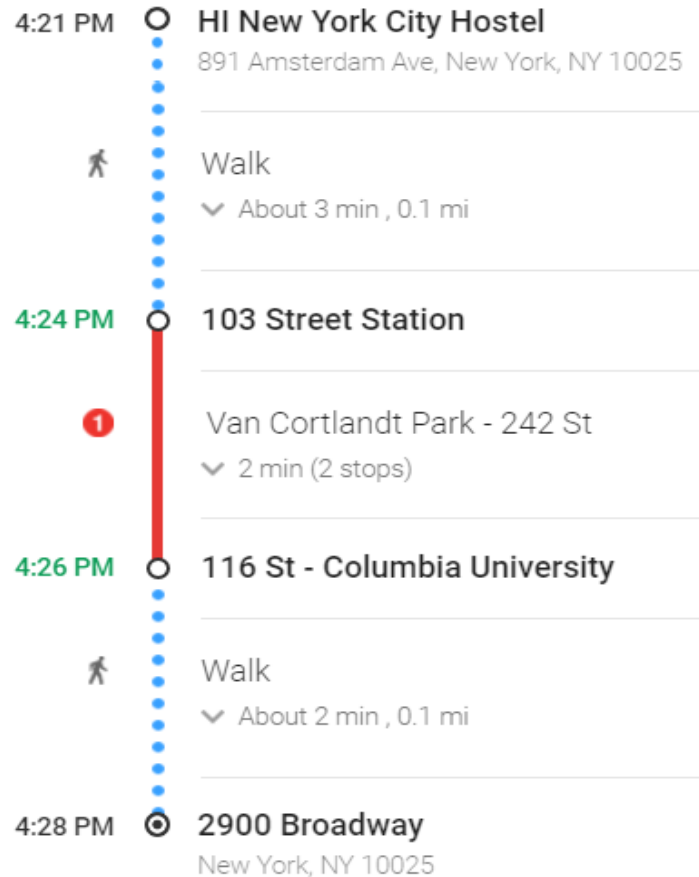
## \*8 minutes by subway\*

Coming from the HI New York City Hostel (891 Amsterdam Ave), walk to the 103 Street Station; a left out of the hostel, cross Amsterdam Ave, and walk down W 103 St., right turn onto Broadway and station will be on your right.

Take the **1 train** going uptown (towards Van Cortlandt Park – 242 St) for two stops.

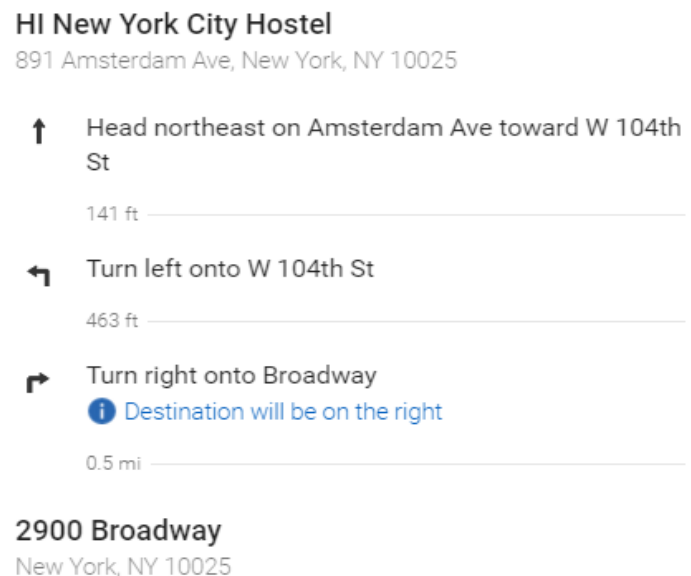
Get off at 116 St – Columbia University and exit the station.

Walk southwest on Broadway towards W 114<sup>th</sup> street and the library (2900 Broadway) will be on your left between 113<sup>th</sup> & 114<sup>th</sup> street.



## \*12 minutes walking\*

Coming from the HI New York City Hostel (891 Amsterdam Ave), walk to the 103 Street Station; a left out of the hostel, cross Amsterdam Ave, and walk down W 103 St., right turn onto Broadway and keep walking straight towards 113<sup>th</sup> street; library (2900 Broadway) will be on your right between 113<sup>th</sup> & 114<sup>th</sup> street.



# 2017 Spring Seminar Planning Committee

## Planning Committee Members

Alex Zane, Brycen Greco, Clara Kraebber, Joanne Dufour, Jonah Goodman, Kelly Diaz, Linnea Nelson, Liz Roper, Martin Tomlinson, Max Solomon-Frye, Sage Drake, Terri Pahucki, Tom Zeller, Tui Menning-Torrie, Willow Crisovan

### Seminar Chair

Allison Hess

### Adult Dean

Liz Roper

### Youth Deans

Martin Tomlinson and Max Solomon-Frye

### Chaplains

Jonah Goodman, Brycen Greco, Terri Pahucki, Tom Zeller

## UU United Nations Office Interns

Kwanique Andrews, Lyle Davison, Emma Langsner, Laura Manos-Hey, Mengxi Zhao

## UUA/UNO Staff

Eric Cherry (International Office Director)

Bruce Knotts (UN Office Director)

Allison Hess (International Engagement Associate)

Aseem Kulkarni (International Programs Administrator)

Seble Alemu (UN Office Intern Coordinator)

## Special Thanks

Angela Kelly and UU College of Social Justice

Steve Ransom and UUA Office of Conference Services

UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Isaac Humphrie

UUA Faith Development Office

UU Funding Program

UUA Stewardship and Development

Mayra Hernandez and staff at HI New York

Staff at Morningside Library

## Learn more about the International Staff Group at the Unitarian Universalist Association

**The UU United Nations Office** has held a prominent place at the United Nations since 1962, advocating for UU values on the global stage. By engaging every day with Member States, organizations, and agencies and speaking out in defense of human rights for those who are oppressed, the UU-UNO works to ensure that action being taken on global platforms is inclusive, fair, and grounded in compassion. In all our initiatives we work closely with UU congregations around the US and Canada who are active in their local contexts while having a global impact. The annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar in New York City is a particularly meaningful way for youth and adults to connect with this important work at the United Nations and includes many opportunities for deeper involvement. [UUA.org/UN](https://uua.org/UN)

**The UUA International Resources Office** is here to provide resources and guidance within the wide breadth of international programs and causes – assisting congregations in finding ways to answer our sixth principle’s call to reach out beyond church walls and borders. We maintain and develop linkages with historic and new U/U communities around the world, connecting your congregation to the story of our global faith, our “Global U/U Story.” Our International Resources Office helps congregations in the US understand the rich history and theology of global Unitarian/Universalism. The Resources Office works very closely with the UU International Joint Working Group, a collaboration with the UU Partner Church Council and the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. Explore these connections by holding a special international engagement worship service. [UUA.org/International](https://uua.org/International)

**The UU Holdeen India Program** works in solidarity with India’s most oppressed and marginalized communities as they struggle to assert their rights. A pioneer in social justice grant-making for over 32 years, we have worked with over 100 partner organizations striving to build a more just society in India. These groups have been at the forefront of campaigns for the rights of those branded as untouchables, indigenous communities, impoverished working women, and other marginalized groups. In addition to grant-making, the Holdeen India Program facilitates volunteer opportunities, learning trips, and other ways for members of UU congregations to experience the courageous work of our partners in India. We invite you to join us in the global struggle against injustice. [UUA.org/Holdeen](https://uua.org/Holdeen)

