Social Work has long claimed Jane Addams as a founder who championed social justice through activism. During and after World War I, the public and Social Work distanced themselves from what the press considered her traitorous, feminist inspired, peace activism. Social Work has never really bridged the distance between itself and Addams’ nor has it recognized her contributions to philosophy through feminist pragmatism.

This presentation explores Addams’ contribution to peace theory and practice as an extension of her social justice activism. It considers the historical context, which led to her ridicule and eventual recognition as a winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace. She wrote three books on peace, organized conferences, traveled to war ravaged countries, founded women’s peace organizations and led humanitarian efforts in post war reconstruction. She also developed a concept of positive peace, which I summarize in the term “peaceweaving.” Finally, this talk will challenge Social Work to recover and integrate Addams work on peace into its institutional heritage and strategic vision.

Objectives:
1. Participants will understand why WWI and Addams’s peace activism reduced her prominence in Social Work.
2. Participants will gain a new understanding of Jane Addams’s efforts as a philosopher and activist for peace.
3. Participants will be able to distinguish between positive and negative peace and apply this to mental health and social work practice.
4. Participants will see a place for the concept of positive peace in Social Work.
5. Participants will learn how mental health and social work ethics is advanced through positive peace and discuss in small groups.
6. Participants will understand how social ethics is integrated into mental health and social work practice.
7. Participants will comprehend how social justice activism fits in the scope of mental health practice and social work.
8. Group discussion regarding historical ethical issues as it relates to ethical decision making in contemporary social work and mental health practice.

Registration is free. $10 for 1 CEU. This program meets the criteria of an approved continuing education program for social work and mental health practice
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