

Bending the Arc: a Social Justice Quarterly October-December 2017

From the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, CA



SB540 Rally; Rev. Beth Banks & Dani Lindstrom, Intern & Campus Minister

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Some Highlights of UUCD members engaging in social justice activities this past quarter:

- **Our crowdfunding Faithify campaign:** On July 15, the last day to donate, we reached our "stretch" goal of \$8,500. Funds provide scholarships for undocumented students at UC Davis, through their support and advocacy organization SPEAK (Scholars Promoting Education Awareness and Knowledge). This campaign grew out of our relationship with the UCD AB540 and Undocumented Student Center (<http://undocumented.ucdavis.edu/>). There is national interest in our collaboration; Rev. Banks spoke about it at General Assembly this summer. Your social justice team has applied for a small grant from the Fund for UU Social Responsibility to offer further support for SPEAK. We expect to learn the outcome of that application in November.
- **Our Sanctuary Discernment Team** (Liz King, Paul Wilson, Beth Banks, Stefan Harvey, Pat Moore Pickett, and Kathy Robertson) presented information about the "New Sanctuary Movement" and solicited initial feedback from meeting participants on their preferences regarding ways of getting involved on Aug 13 and Sept 17. Gabby Trejo, from Sacramento ACT (Area Congregations Together, the local PICO affiliate), spoke at the Sept. 17 meeting about their interfaith work on immigration and sanctuary. UUCD joining Sacramento ACT to do sanctuary work is among the possible actions we could take. See below for details of the two remaining meetings with the SDT.



- **Unity rally in Central Park, August 17:** many UUCD members attended to offer love in the face of the racism and hate on display at the recent march in Charlottesville. Speakers, including Congressman John Garamendi, Mayor Robb Davis, and Chancellor Gary May, spoke in front of our Black Lives Matter banner.

- **SB54 rally:** Sept. 7, Beth Banks, Dani Lindstrom, Pat Moore-Pickett, Stefan Harvey, and Robin Datel joined the SB54 rally at the

Capitol and the march to the California State Sheriffs' Association at I and I3th streets. SB54, the California Values Act, was passed by the Senate and the Assembly and was signed by Governor Brown on Oct. 5. SB54 limits the involvement of California state and local law enforcement in federal immigrant detention and deportation.



- Sept. 14, representatives from **Sacramento ACT**, the ACLU, and Service Employees International Union, held a **legal observer training** at UUCD (sponsor: Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network [YIIN]). The two-hour event included "Know your Rights:" what undocumented individuals and family members should do when confronted by ICE officials, and details about how others in the community can provide witness during an ICE raid or an accompaniment when an individual has to go to court. Those interested in becoming legal observers must file an application and take a second training.
- September 24, Ramon and Karen Urbano hosted a social event at their Woodland home for the **UU Justice Ministry of California**. Karen, a UUJM board member, reports, "We had around 27 people here. Each of our cluster congregations was represented: Davis, Sacramento, Grass Valley, Auburn and Chico. Executive Director Evan Junker gave an update on UUJM activities and spoke about the existing action teams for immigration and economic justice and about the need for a health justice action team. Beverly Boido was honored for her service as administrator, membership manager, and event planner, as she is retiring this month. Money was raised. Ramon spoke of his time on the then UULM board and how it helped shape what he is doing now with YIIN."

Ways YOU can help bend the arc in the fourth quarter of 2017:

- **Help put food on many tables in Yolo County** by harvesting vegetables and learning about work on a local small farm on second Saturdays 10am-noon. Next opportunities: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9. Location: **FARM Davis**, just outside Davis, 25450 County Road 95. This activity is designed for all ages and is a joint effort of UUCD's Religious Exploration ministry and the Social Justice Coordinating Committee. Don't forget your water bottle, sunscreen, and a hat.

- **Join the Quilting Bee** on 2nd Saturdays, 3-5pm, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9. New members are welcomed to sew at the monthly gathering or to take projects to sew at home. We have projects that everyone works on and projects that one person does alone. We have challenging and easy tasks. It's a great place to learn or teach. Completed quilts are given to wonderful people, including our original recipients: the boys at Progress Ranch. Contact Julie Saylor for details, sayjulie@gmail.com
- **Attend the 3rd Annual Upstander Carnival** Oct 15, 2-4:30pm, Vet's Memorial Center. For Elementary aged children & their families: Fun + Learn how to be an Upstander! Host: Davis Phoenix Coalition. www.davisphoenixco.org



- **Participate in our sanctuary discernment process.** The final regular meeting regarding what UUCD can do to support the undocumented community will take place Oct 15 after the second service. There will be in-depth discussions about the various sanctuary activities identified to date and attendees will have the opportunity to comment on and finalize the proposal to be voted on at the membership meeting Oct 29 at 12:45. Read the The Sanctuary Discernment Team's fact sheets about sanctuary activities and the draft proposal: <http://www.uudavis.org/PDFs/2017SDT.pdf>. *The Social Justice Co-chairs urge everyone to read the materials to prepare for the October 15 discussion and to attend the Congregational Membership meeting on Oct 29. Active involvement is one way we can take action.*
- **Join Faithful Friends/Amigos Fieles**, Oct. 16, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16, as they visit immigrants detained by ICE at Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, 12500 Bruceville Rd., Elk Grove, CA 95757. Registration: 6pm. Visits on other evenings (except Fridays) can be arranged. There are also visitation times Mondays & Tuesdays, 9am & 12:30pm. *Someone will be there with you.* For details: Faithful Friends Program Coordinator, Susan Lange, susanlange.uu@gmail.com, 916-686-1206, cell 650-291-4603.
- **Have Breakfast to Support the UUCD Border Trip**, at church Oct 22! Details in bulletin. Eat eggs and fruit with fellow UUs; make a donation to support our delegation heading to Arizona Nov. 7.
- **Take the UndocuAlly training** from the UC Davis AB540 & Undocumented Student Center: open to everyone. The training is required for you to participate in events with students affiliated with the center or with SPEAK (*Scholars Promoting Education and Knowledge*), a student-led campus group that our church supports. Trainings are three-hours-long with five focus areas. Full attendance at the session for which you register is strongly advised. Fall Quarter sessions: Oct 25, 9am-noon; Nov 15, 10am-1pm; Dec 19, 9am-noon. Register: <http://tinyurl.com/UAttrain17> Also, please let Stefan Harvey or Robin Datel know you've registered. These sessions are educational, not a forum for political debate. Questions: Hector Gamero at the center, hegamero@ucdavis.edu
- **Enjoy an Interfaith Ancestral Reverence Ceremony and Memorial Grove Tree Care Event**, Nov 4, 10am-noon, Tree Davis Memorial Grove, 1515 Shasta Dr. In honor of Dia de los Muertos, All Souls' Day, and Samhain: interfaith prayer circle; ancestral reverence ceremony; community stories; singing by the Davis Threshold Choir; Tree planting, pruning, and care.

- **Help bless our Border Trip at worship**, Nov 5. Participants leave the next day! Read to imagine what our travelers will be learning and experiencing: <http://uucsj.org/journeys/borderlinks/>.
- **Volunteer to set up and serve at Davis Community Meals**, 2nd Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates: Nov 14, Dec 12. Contact Kathy Boyajian, katboy@gmail.com
- **Volunteer: Davis' Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter**. IRWS seeks intake volunteers to interview guests & coordinate rides to shelters, 5-6:30pm, Nov. 26–Mar. 10, any day you're able. Volunteers train: Nov 4, 10am-noon, OR Nov 7, 7-9pm. www.interfaithshelter.org
irwsteam@gmail.com
- Save the dates: **Climate and Sustainability Forum, 2018. Think Resilience**: 6-week discussion course of the video series by Richard Heinberg, Sr. Fellow at the Post Carbon Institute who spoke at UUCD in 2007. The Jan.-Feb. course will culminate in a talk by Richard Heinberg; open to the public!
- Save the date: **6th Annual Interfaith Climate Conference**, Sat., March 10, 1-5pm, at UUCD. Focus: the health of our urban and Sierra trees and our role in nurturing them. More about Yolo Interfaith Alliance for Climate Justice: <http://tinyurl.com/CD-YIACJ>

Myanmar Children's Foundation (MCF) Update

Susan Steinbach, of UUCD, reports that the Myanmar Children's Foundation is grateful for UUCD's continuing support and sponsorship of youth education and development projects. MCF accomplishments include construction of a youth center, a school, latrines and a water tank. Educational programming includes courses in life skills, cultural heritage, leadership, and English. MCF has also raised and donated funds for cyclone relief, a cardiac unit at a children's hospital, and travel of children to that unit for surgery. The latter effort involved a partnership with Sunset Rotary of Davis. More about MCF:

<http://www.myanmarchildrensfoundation.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/myanmarchildrensfoundation>

Consider serving on the MCF Board of Directors or making a tax deductible donation: <https://www.paypal.me/Myanmarkids> Questions? myanmarkids@gmail.com



Remember that we are sharing our collections during services with good causes nominated by our members. Share-the-plate recipients during October, November, and December are the Mosaic Children's Museum, the Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network (YIIN), and Progress Ranch.

Interested in finding out about any of these opportunities or about anything in this publication? Contact Robin Datel, rddd@dcn.davis.ca.us or Stefan Harvey, stefh2002@yahoo.com

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