

Bending the Arc: A Social Justice Quarterly
January-February-March 2018
 From the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, CA
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UUCD members have been engaging in social justice activities this past quarter. Some highlights:

- Participants at an October book discussion of **Rev. William Barber's *The Third Reconstruction***, sponsored by Uniting for Racial Justice (URJ), discussed Barber's account of how a moral majority can overcome the politics of fear and division. Rev. Barber, who will preach at the UUA Pacific Western Regional Assembly April 27-29 in Portland, OR (<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/regional-assembly>), has kicked off a new poor people's campaign 50 years after Martin Luther King's effort in 1968. Rev. Beth may address Barber's campaign in her MLK sermon this Sunday (1/14).
- **Several church breakfasts in October** generated funds needed for the congregation's trip to the AZ/Mexico border; extra dollars allowed participants to make a more generous donation to three of the organizations they visited. Attendees at Sunday services on November 5 helped bless our travelers two days before they departed. See below in the section on upcoming events for your chance to learn about their experiences.
- **People of all ages** who participated in the Fall outings to **FARM Davis** got to harvest vegetables for Davis Community Meals and other nutrition programs in Davis.
- Nearly **30 people** attended the final sanctuary discussion on October 15, and **70 members voted unanimously** to become a sanctuary congregation on October 29. Read the UUCD Sanctuary Declaration at the end of this publication.
- **UUCD joined Sacramento ACT** (Area Congregations Together), the local chapter of PICO, People Improving Communities Through Organizing.



- **Members of the Quilting Bee** produced 13 beautiful quilts and 35 beautiful pillowcases, delivered to the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild for distribution to people affected by the fires and to their local hospitals. Judy Moores sewed a quilt for Sue Saum of Glacier Circle, using hand-quilted squares made by Dorie Datel. As you can see from the accompanying photo of Sue, she was very pleased, and she makes the quilt look even more beautiful. At the Dec. 17 child dedication ceremony, quilts were given to 3 babies and playful pillowcases were given to 3 older siblings.
- On December 9, about 30 people from UUCD and St. Martin's Episcopal Church of Davis attended **UndocuAlly training** provided by the UC Davis AB540 & Undocumented Student Center. This training, which was held at our church, is given several times per quarter on the UCD campus and is open to community members. The training is required for anyone to participate in events with university students affiliated with the center or SPEAK, Scholars Promoting Education and Knowledge, a student-led UCD group that our church supports.
- **UUCD's decision to become a sanctuary congregation** was highlighted in a *Davis Enterprise* Nov. editorial.
- **The UUCD Board of Trustees approved** the charge for a new leadership group, the **Immigration Justice Team (IJT)**, at their December meeting. The IJT was established to carry out the work of our sanctuary declaration; it includes Steve Burns (rallies and legislation); Karen Friis (fundraising); Rev. Beth Banks, Jose Torres, and Kathy Robertson (liaisons with AB540 and Undocumented Student Center); Pat Moore-Pickett and Mari Perla (liaisons with Sacramento ACT/PICO); Sharon Hale and Jeannette Hogan (training); and Robin Datel and Stefan Harvey (social justice co-chairs). Information about the work of the Immigration Justice Team and how you can be involved will be available during tabling in the social hall on many Sundays throughout this quarter. IJT members welcome inquiries as well.
- On December 12, UUCD and Davis Community Church congregants **met with ACT/PICO** Executive Director Gabby Trejo and Community Organizer Carlos Montes-Ponce to learn how ACT operates. It was decided UUCD would respond to a request to support a Davis resident detained by ICE (see item directly below).
- On very short notice, members of our Immigration Justice Team organized a **“Rally in Support and Solidarity of our Southeast Asian Neighbors.”** It was held on December 14 in front of Congressman Garamendi's Davis office, 412 G St., Davis. The message that was delivered by our ministers, other faith leaders, and other participants was: “Stop the deportations. Nearly 200 Cambodian and Vietnamese have been detained in the past several weeks including residents of Davis, Sacramento, and Woodland. Some are scheduled for deportations this month. Many came as refugees when they were children; they are being torn from their families and the communities where they have lived for years and deported to countries they barely know.” Congressman Garamendi's staff opened their doors and invited protesters in to talk. Several local media covered the event. Later in December, Governor Brown pardoned Rottanack Kong, the Cambodian immigrant UUCD has been supporting through this ordeal, for a conviction that contributed to his being targeted for deportation. His legal team at the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic continued to advocate against his being sent back to Cambodia, which he left at two years of age. We just learned (Jan. 9) that he has been released by ICE and is back in Davis!
- In December, **the UU Fund for Social Responsibility awarded \$5,500** to UUCD to strengthen our alliance with undocumented students and their allies at UC Davis. UUCD will use the funds to provide free rental space for student-run events at our facilities and defray costs of a student empowerment week this spring. Efforts will be made to coordinate this project with sanctuary work that involves the AB540 & Undocumented Center, UC Davis.

- **Supporters of Faithful Friends/Amigos Fieles**, who visit immigrants detained by ICE at Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center in Elk Grove, attended a holiday card writing party hosted by Stefan Harvey. Eight UUCDers and two individuals from the UU Society of Sacramento wrote 100+ cards of holiday greetings, mailed Dec. 19.



How YOU can help bend the arc in the first quarter of 2018. YOU can . . .

- **Attend a Nuclear Weapons Policy Teach-In**, Saturday, January 13, 2-4:30pm, Sanctuary. Led by members of the Davis Democratic Club. Speakers include Congressman John Garamendi and experts on global nuclear arms systems and constitutional law. Rep. Garamendi is an original sponsor of H.R. 699, a bill requiring a congressional declaration of war and specific authorization to use nuclear weapons first in a conflict. The teach-in provides info. on this pressing issue and ways to support Rep Garamendi in his effort to reduce the role of nuclear weapons.
- **Take “Think Resilience: A Group Discussion Course,”** based on Richard Heinberg’s Post Carbon Institute Video Course. It’s a new year, and a chance for a fresh commitment toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for our community and the world. Read more at <https://www.cooldavis.org/2017/12/28/think-resilience/>. The class meets on eight Tuesdays, January 16 – March 6, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Repower Yolo Office at 909 5th Street (across the railroad tracks from Hibbert Lumber). Each week we’ll watch three short videos and discuss them. Sign up for the course at www.cooldavis.org/news.
- **Learn how to be a Rapid Response Legal Observer in support of immigrants.** Phase I of this two-part training is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, in the UUCD library from 7-9 pm. To sign up contact Jeannette Hogan (jeannettehoganx@gmail.com) or Sharon Hale (sharonhale62@gmail.com).
- **Participate in a forum on homelessness** Sunday, January 21st, 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary. A panel of several local leaders involved in addressing homelessness, including Councilman Lucas Frerichs and a team from Paul’s Place, an exciting community-generated project, will discuss local plans and programs and how you can support these efforts. There will be time for audience interaction with the panelists. Snacks will be served.
- **In honor of Fred Korematsu Day, attend a film screening of “And Then They Came for Us”** on February 10th, 1:00 - 3:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. This event, sponsored by Uniting for Racial Justice and the Social Justice Coordinating Committee, includes the 47-minute film which focuses on the World War II-era incarceration of West Coast Japanese Americans. The film urges remembrance of this outrage as a warning against anything similar happening again. Following the film, there is a discussion led by a panel (including Marty West of Davis and Floyd Shimomura of Woodland) and an art project designed for children and youth (children over 7 are invited to watch the film; daycare provided for those 3-7). Several members of UUCD have ties to the incarceration; materials of theirs embodying these ties will be on display. Snacks served. Attendees are urged to participate in a social justice action, inspired by the film and honoring the spirit of resistance shown by Fred Korematsu.
- On Feb. 17 help protect **our green church grounds**: our trees, shrubs, flowers and plants by participating in an all-church grounds day activity. Under the guidance of UUCD’s dedicated grounds crew, join in the fun and contribute your muscle to enhancing our beautiful and sustainable church campus.
- **Hear travelers’ tales** from those who went to the Arizona/Mexico border in November with the UU College of Social Justice. They discuss their experiences on February 25 at 12:30pm. <http://uucsj.org/journeys/borderlinks/>
- **Help put food on many tables in Yolo County** by harvesting vegetables and learning about work on a local small farm on Saturday, March 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Location: **FARM Davis**, just outside Davis at 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, sunscreen, and a hat.
- **Help bless two Progress Ranch quilts** at the 11:15 service on January 28. The Quilting Bee reminds us that Progress Ranch will be the share-the-plate recipient for the month of March. Participate in the Quilting Bee on second Saturdays from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are January 13, February 10, and March 10. 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 as well as projects that one person does alone. We have challenging tasks and easy tasks. It is 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 more information, sayjulie@gmail.com.

- Attend an **ACT Leadership Assembly**, Thursday, January 25, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Location TBA. Details available in the social hall after services at the Social Justice Coordinating Committee table.
- **Listen to “Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security”** on Thursday, January 25, at the UC Davis Conference Center, Ballroom B, 4:00-5:30 p.m. This talk by author and journalist Todd Miller is co-sponsored by the UC Davis AB540 and Undocumented Student Center, the Department of Political Science, the Migration Research Center, and the School of Law. In *Storming the Wall*, Todd Miller travels around the world to connect the dots between climate-ravaged communities, the corporations cashing in on border militarization, and emerging movements for sustainability and environmental justice. The author of *Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Line of Homeland Security*, Miller has researched and written about border issues for more than 15 years, the last seven as an independent journalist and writer. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Nation*, and *Guernica*, among other places.
- **Make detention center visits with Faithful Friends/Amigos Fieles.** The U.S. immigration detention system seeks to isolate people in immigration detention from the outside community and prevent the public from knowing what is going on behind closed doors. Faithful Friends, a community visitation group for people in immigration detention at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center in Elk Grove, is there to break that isolation, to affirm the humanity of those in detention, and to bring their stories to the community. Contact the Program Coordinator for more information about joining us: Susan Lange susanlange.uu@gmail.com. Susan is a Sacramento UU.
- Take **the UndocuAlly training** from the UC Davis AB540 & Undocumented Student Center: open to community members. 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. Each training is a three-hour-long session with five different focus areas presented by the facilitators. Full attendance at the session for which you register is strongly advised. Here are the Winter Quarter dates and times: Wednesday, January 24, 9am - 12pm; Wednesday, February 14, 10am - 1pm; and Thursday, March 15th. All sessions are held at the Student Community Center, Meeting Room D. A final reminder from the AB540 and Undocumented Student Center: these sessions are educational and not the proper forum for political debate. For registration, please e-mail Hector Gamero at the center, hegamero@ucdavis.edu. Also, please let our AB540 and Undocumented Student Center liaisons on the Immigrant Justice Team know once you have completed the training (Rev. Beth Banks, Kathy Robertson, Jose Torres).
- **Volunteer to set up and serve at Davis Community Meals** on the second Tuesday of every month. Upcoming dates are February 13 and March 13. Contact Kathy Boyajian, katboy@gmail.com.
- **Volunteer for Davis’ Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter.** UUCD will be hosting the shelter January 28 – Feb. 3. Sign up in the Social Hall or contact Lindsay Weston, lawweston@sbcglobal.net or 530-304-0873. History/mission: interfaith-shelter.org.
- **Learn about “Healing our Communities: The Impact of Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome”** at the 2018 Sacramento ACT (Area Congregations Together) Fundraising Breakfast, Friday, March 9, 8:00-9:30 am (registration begins at 7:30 am) at Congregation B’nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, 95818. The speaker, Dr. Joy De Gruy, will address: how does the legacy of slavery continue to shape our communities in 2018? How do we tell the truth about multigenerational trauma and its impact on our youth? And how do we begin to heal and restore our communities? Dr. DeGruy has over 25 years of practical experience as a professional in the field of social work. She conducts workshops and trainings in the areas of mental health, social justice and culture specific social service model development. She is the author of *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America’s Enduring Legacy of Injury and Healing*. Purchase tickets (\$25 each) here: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3195436>.
- **6th Annual Interfaith Climate Conference.** With a focus on the health of our urban and Sierra trees and our role in nurturing them. Saturday, March 10, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at UUCD. For more information see below and visit the **Yolo Interfaith Alliance for Climate Justice** <https://www.cooldavis.org/take-action/in-the-community/yolo-interfaith-alliance-for-climate-justice/>.

The following declaration was adopted unanimously at the special membership meeting of UUCD on October 29, 2017.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis Sanctuary Declaration

Our Unitarian Universalist values call on us to provide sanctuary for fellow community members who are under attack by government authorities. Today, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion. Consistent with our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person—and, as signers of the Unitarian Universalist Association/Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Declaration of Conscience—we, the UU Church of Davis, agree to take the following actions. As a sanctuary congregation, UUCD will:



- Be a voice for justice in the public square of Yolo County and in the Pacific Central District and the Pacific Western Region of the UUA.
- Support UC Davis SPEAK and the AB 540 and Undocumented Center when requested to do so by students or staff.
- Have congregants who become trained as legal observers, rapid responders, accompaniment companions and UndocuAllies serve when called upon.
- Raise funds to support the undocumented immigrant community.
- Attend rallies and actively support selected local, state and federal legislation that protects the immigrant and undocumented communities.
- Support the immigration work of interfaith groups and other nonprofits in Yolo County and the greater Sacramento area when they request our assistance.
- Join Area Congregations Together/People Improving Communities Through Organizing (Sacramento ACT/PICO) and become active with the ACT/PICO immigration team.
- Continue to listen, learn and work as individuals and as a congregation to promote justice, allowing the needs, visions and voices of the communities with whom we work to guide us.

On this day, October 29, 2017, we declare the UU Church of Davis to be a sanctuary congregation. Individuals in the church will be active as their time and talents allow.

We are sharing our Sunday offering collections with good causes nominated by our members. Share-the-plate recipients during January, February, and March are the International Rescue Committee of Northern California, Davis Media Access, and Progress Ranch. Each recipient organization has the opportunity to table during its share-the-plate month.



Yolo Interfaith Alliance
for Climate Justice

Save-the-Date: March 10, 2018 from 1-5 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis
6th Annual Interfaith Climate Conference
DEEPENING OUR ROOTS: GROWING RESILIENT FORESTS

1. Dr. E. Gregory McPherson, Research Urban Forester for our Region *Creating Healthy Urban Forests for Our Children's Children*

2. Daniel Barad, Sierra Club Biomass Campaign Organizer
Safeguarding Our Sierra Nevada Forests

3. Ways to Deepen our Roots and Grow Resilient Forests

Activities include: walking a labyrinth under the pines, tree planting with a master gardener, Song Hatching & dance expression, making posters for Arbor Day, active discussions with our experts, Julia Butterfly Hill's "Surviving the Storm" and Suzanne Simard's "How Trees Talk to Each Other," browsing Children's Literature, letters of advocacy, and more.

Register at www.CoolDavis.org/.

