

Bending the Arc: A Social Justice Quarterly
May & June 2018
From the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, CA
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UUs demonstrate with Sacramento Black Lives Matter in support of police reforms following the death of Stephon Clark.

★ **SEEKING Two SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS!** ★

Robin Dattel and Stefan Harvey step down as Social Justice Coordinating Committee co-chairs at the end of June. Please let us know if you would be interested being a justice leader at UUCD.

Contact rddd@dcn.org.

We'll buy you a cup of coffee and describe the opportunities that await new justice co-chairs.

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(January – April 2018, Online Only: http://uudavis.org/PDFs/2018_04_SJ_Quarterly.pdf)

How YOU can help bend the arc in May and June. YOU can . . .

- Attend free daily events at UC Davis's **SPEAK Empowerment Week**. SPEAK supports undocumented students. A UU Funding Program grant provides funds for these events and encourages closer contacts between UUCD and SPEAK. Read about Thursday, 5/3, and Friday, 5/4, events: <https://tinyurl.com/SPEAKpdfB>
- Attend a Lecture & Workshop: **How White People Can Work For Racial Justice**, Sunday, May 6, 2-4:30pm, UUSS, 2425 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento. Are you concerned about racism in our country; have questions about race and racism? Speaker, Paul Kivel, has done four decades of racial justice work: community education, engaged parenthood, political writing, practical activism. Freewill donation to support local communities of color. Volunteer at the event: stefh2002@yahoo.com. Co-sponsor: UUCD's Social Justice Coordinating Committee.
- Take the **UndocuAllly Training**, 9am-noon, May 10 or June 15. Open to anyone, this training is required for those who wish 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 has

five focus areas presented by facilitators. All sessions are held at the Student Community Center, Meeting Room D. *Reminder from the AB540 and Undocumented Student Center: these sessions are educational and not the proper forum for political debate.* Register: Hector Gamero, hegamero@ucdavis.edu. Please notify Rev. Beth Banks, Kathy Robertson, or Jose Torres when you have completed the training so you may participate in events involving the AB540 and Undocumented Student Center and SPEAK, ex: dinners and snack drop-offs. More info: Kathy Robertson, robertsonkt@sbcglobal.net.

- Volunteer to set up and serve at **Davis Community Meals** on the second Tuesday of every month. Upcoming dates are May 8 and June 13. Contact Kathy Boyajian, katboy@gmail.com
- Rally and Advocate for Legislation: **Immigrant Day** at the Capitol, Monday, May 14, 8:30am-4pm. Be part of a broad coalition, led by the California Immigrant Policy Center, lobbying state legislators for laws supportive of immigrants. Register: <https://caimmigrant.org/events/immigrantday/>. When asked for your organization, reply, "Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis." After you register, you should receive information telling you how to sign up for the *Immigrant Day Policy Platform Webinar*, May 8, 6-7pm, which will inform you about the legislation we're supporting May 14. (*While the webinar is helpful, it's not required to participate in Immigrant Day.*) Details: Stefan Harvey, stefh2002@yahoo.com
- Participate in the first Monday action of the **Poor People's Campaign** at the Capitol, May 14. Details and carpool: Stefan Harvey stefh2002@yahoo.com.
- Gallery, "**Race and Social Justice in American History**," May 17, 4-7pm, South Gym, Davis Senior High. View 40 student posters and a live presentation by contributing Davis students. Show the students and the Davis community that we care about American history being taught in our public schools in ways that examine racism and social injustice. Robin Datel, rddd@dcn.org
- Participate with other UUs in **Davis Pride**, Sunday, May 20. You can volunteer or do the Run/Walk for Equality (8-11am), then go to church for a blessing, then return downtown for the free Community Festival (10am-4pm). <http://mwqdesign.com/davispride/>. Uniting for Racial Justice plans to have a booth at the festival; contact Leanne Freidman, lifriedman@ucdavis.edu.
- Contact Robin Datel or Stefan Harvey, interim co-chairs of the Immigration Justice Team (IJT), about **the contract Yolo County has with the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement** to house certain detained, unaccompanied, undocumented minors in our juvenile hall. Discussions about that contract are currently being held by the County Board of Supervisors. Please let us know if you'd like to join IJT's study of the issue: rddd@dcn.org, stefh2002@yahoo.com.
- 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's 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: Susan Lange susanlange.uu@gmail.com. Susan is a Sacramento UU.

Share the Offering: We share our worship service offering with good causes nominated by our members. Recipients: May, The Bike Campaign <https://thebikecampaign.com/> and June, Friends of Yolo Adult Day Health Care, <http://www.friendsofadultdayhealth.org/> Support these organizations financially and learn about their work. Each recipient organization has the opportunity to table during its share-the-plate month.

UUCD members have engaged in many social justice activities during January, February, March, and April. Here are some highlights:

- Members of our church and many others participated in the **Nuclear Weapons Policy Teach-In**, hosted by the Social Justice Coordinating Committee on Saturday, January 13, in the Sanctuary. Organized by members of the Davis Democratic Club, speakers included Congressperson John Garamendi and experts on global nuclear arms systems and constitutional law.

- Members of UUCD and other Davis congregations learned how to be **Rapid Response Legal Observers** in support of immigrants in sessions on January 18 and February 22. Training was provided via PICO/Sacramento ACT. Interested in becoming trained: Jeannette Hogan, jeannettehoganx@gmail.com
- Church and community members attended a **forum on homelessness**, January 21, in the sanctuary. Councilperson Lucas Frerichs and a team from Paul's Place, an exciting community-generated project to house the homeless, discussed local plans and programs and how to support them. Stay tuned to learn how you can participate in advocacy activities in support of Paul's Place in coming weeks.
- Congregants and friends helped bless two quilts for **Progress Ranch** kids at the 11:15 service on January 28.
- Scores of UUCD members and friends volunteered for **Davis's Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter** in many different capacities. UUCD hosted the shelter January 28 – February 3, under the leadership of Lindsay Weston.



*A crowd enjoys the exhibits at *And Then They Came for Us*.*

- In honor of **Fred Korematsu Day**, the film, “**And Then They Came for Us**,” was screened February 10, in the sanctuary. This event, sponsored by Uniting for Racial Justice and the Social Justice Coordinating Committee, began with the film about the World War II-era incarceration of West Coast Japanese Americans. The film urges remembrance of this outrage as a warning against similar actions in the future. Then, Joyce Takahashi and Mary West of UUCD and Floyd Shimomura of Woodland narrated their personal stories about the incarceration; they, Kathy Tucker, and other UUCD members displayed related materials in the social hall.



*Marty West speaks at *And Then They Came for Us* as other speakers Fred Shimomura (far L) and Joyce Takahashi (R) look on.*

- Volunteers cooked, set up, and served at **Davis Community Meals** on February 13 and March 13.
- February 17, dozens of people helped care for our green church landscapes by participating in an **All-Church Grounds Day Activity**. Under the guidance of Gail Jankowski and UUCD's dedicated grounds crew, a lot of muscle was applied to enhancing our beautiful and sustainable church campus.
- February 25, attendees heard beautifully presented, illustrated, and deeply felt travelers' tales from the UUCD delegation who went to the **Arizona/Mexico border** in November with the UU College of Social Justice.
- February 28, UUCD members carpooled to Sacramento State for **Dr. Paul Kivel's** lecture, “Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice.” The 4th edition of his book (same name) released 2017.

- UUCD members attended the March 1 YIIN (Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network) **Forum on the Revocation of Temporary Protected Status for Salvadorans**, held at the Davis Senior Center.
- Most of two tables at the annual **Yolo County Women's History Luncheon** on March 8 in Woodland were filled with UUCD-ers. This year's speaker was our own Marty West, who addressed this year's theme, "Nevertheless She Persisted," weaving together in an educational and entertaining talk crucial events in her own life as a feminist with what was happening in the progress of women locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Several members of our congregation attended "**Healing our Communities: The Impact of Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome**," the 2018 Sacramento ACT Fundraising Breakfast, March 9, at Congregation B'nai Israel, Sacramento. Speaker, Dr. Joy De Gruy, addressed: *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? How do we begin to heal and restore our communities?*
- March 10, visitors to **FARM Davis** helped put food on tables in Yolo County by harvesting vegetables and learning about work on a local small farm. This activity is an on-going joint effort of UUCD's Religious Exploration ministry and the Social Justice Coordinating Committee.
- March 10, UUCD hosted the **6th Annual Interfaith Climate Conference**, focusing this year on the health of our urban and Sierra trees and our role in nurturing them. The conference is the work of Lynne Nittler and the Yolo Interfaith Alliance for Climate Justice, an affiliate of Cool Davis.
- In mid-March, Kathy Robertson, Beth Banks, and Jose Torres—of the Immigration Justice Team—hosted dinners in their homes for members of the undocumented student support group, SPEAK. Other members of the congregation co-hosted, and still others have accompanied Beth to the AB540 and Undocumented Student Center to deliver tasty snacks. If interested, contact Kathy Robertson, robertsonkt@sbcglobal.net.
- March 30, the Social Justice Coordinating Committee and the Immigration Justice Team screened "**Daze of Justice**," a film by **Michael Siv** about a group of Cambodian-American women who returned to Cambodia to testify against the Khmer Rouge. Mr. Siv and Chen Kong-Wick, whose brother Rottanak was arrested by ICE in Davis in October and threatened with deportation to Cambodia (released in January), spoke of their evolving relationships with Cambodia, past, present, and future. *UUCD organized a rally of support of Rottanak Kong last December.*



Chen Kong-Wick, Don Saylor, Rev. Beth Banks, and Michael Siv.

- April 4, several members of UUCD joined **Sacramento Black Lives Matter** as they rallied to voice concern about the killing of Stephon Clark.
- April 16, a dozen UUCD-ers attended the **Moral Monday Mass Meeting**, part of the **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Sacramento. This national campaign continues the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and is led by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, of Healers of the Breach, and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis from KAIROS, the Center of Religions, Rights, and Social Justice. Our local keynote speaker was Bishop Yvette A. Flunder, of the United Church of Christ and the Pacific School of Religion. This event was the local kick-off for six weeks of actions at the Capitol each Monday, beginning May 14. Key issues of the Poor People's Campaign are poverty, racism, environmental degradation, and the war economy.
- April 22, several UUCD-ers met with congregants from the other **ACT-in-Yolo** faith groups to be trained to conduct informational interviews. SAC ACT's Yolo organizer, Carlos Montes Ponce, was joined by Ashlin Malouf of the PICO California staff. Join UUCD ACT work: Pat Moore Pickett, p_moore_pickett@yahoo.com