

# California UUs Stand on the Side of Love in Phoenix

Here are some feelings and observations about the May 29, 1010 march on Phoenix to protest the recent Arizona legislation targeting immigrants.

*It's good to know that we are prepared to suit up and show up when the call goes out. So much depends on this.*

## **Rev. Jan Christian**

*I am so glad I could be a part of the protest rally and march. It is one thing to read the SB1070 bill on paper and an entirely different experience to walk with and hear the stories of the people whose lives are deeply affected by the cruelty that is the current system of immigration enforcement. My heart has been opened and my commitment to justice and reform strengthened.*

## **Rev. Meghan Cefalu**

*I was glad and proud to also stand alongside my best friend from seminary - a UCC pastor whose community ministry for many, many years has been border-work. Add I mean work, real, hard, physical work. For much of which, I might add, she doesn't get paid. She is my age (50-something) and goes out often into the broiling desert to leave water at stations so that a few more people live instead of die while crossing the desert in desperation (would anyone cross the Arizona desert in the summer, for example <which they do> if they were NOT desperate?).*

*It was wonderful to be there with her, to feel our profoundly different ministries (mine is parish) merge into one, as we answered that old, ever-living call of justice with our service, if only for a day - together.*

## **Rev. Carolyn Price**

*It was a great weekend showing once again that people do care about the issues where politicians attempt to divide people. With over 50,000 people from around the country, over 300 UUs from at least a dozen states, including about 60 ministers the voice of dispossessed was heard.*

## **Rev. Ken Brown**

*So many perspectives. So much fear, pain and anger; hope and courage. What became clear to me as I trod on, was that while I could easily stand behind almost all of the signs and slogans I saw bobbing in that day's multi-colored sea of humanity – the one that spoke most directly to my religious and spiritual identity was the one carried/worn by our Unitarian Universalist contingent: "Standing on the Side of Love". It is Love that seeds, nurtures and sustains us as human beings within this world. And it is Love that should be at the core of all that we create, including our laws. When those laws do not recognize the un-doubtable light of Love within each one of us; when laws are created to divide us from one another and therefore from the truth of our inherent value (as happens when things like poverty wages, slavery, border walls and genocide are justified as "legal acts" as they have been and are in various parts of the world at any given time), then they are, in my eyes, invalid. An abomination.*

*This weekend in Phoenix was many things to many people. For me it was a kind of baptism: a coming of age. An affirmation of the kind of questions I need to be asking myself, the values I need to see reflected in the world and will give my life to. It's a beginning. And I hope you'll join me.*

## **Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale**

*And to all who made this past weekend in AZ possible. This note is brief because I have yet to be able to articulate my experience there.*

*My feelings are so deep and wide right now. I am truly overwhelmed with everything we experienced from the hospitality of all the UU church folks there, seeing so many colleagues from near & very far, the sharing of the family on Friday night, the march so excruciatingly hot but so full of color and beauty and energy, thousands together...*

*Watching some of the You-tube coverage last night as I sat in my cool dark church office I finally broke down sobbing, recalling the events of the weekend. When I walked out into my ARE class they applauded and all I could think about was how fortunate I am, while the suffering of so many continues in AZ and elsewhere.*

*Goosebumps still rise on my skin thinking about the glorious worship on Sunday morning with Peter's moving sermon & the fabulous music. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. No, it is not over, but we were there and we will be there, for all of us, every step of the way onward...*

*Todos somos Arizona*

*¡Si se puede! Paz y Gracias a todos,*

**Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez**