

For WN 5/4/17: The 1<sup>st</sup> about SJA, the 2<sup>nd</sup> about the Yard Sale

## Social Justice Allies (SJA) Update Beacon's Public Stances

As promised last week, this is Part Two of a series that both reviews and updates three social justice issues on which Beacon UU Congregation voted overwhelming to take a "public stance." What that means is that *as a faith community* we have decided to focus on these issues:

1. **Immigration**, by supporting "families of undocumented immigrants" (approved 2013). Please click on this link to retrieve the review and update on this issue
2. **Non-violence**, in support of local efforts toward non-violence (approved 2016);
3. **Living wage**, in support of efforts toward reform that provides a living wage for local workers (approved 2016).

Yes, I skipped to issue number 3 after reading a provocative article in last week's local paper. Stay tuned for Part Three, which will be about non-violence (item 2 as listed above).

### Living Wage

Early last summer (2016), when the Beacon congregation approved taking a public stance in support of efforts toward a living wage in our area, SJA thought that there would be specific actions we could take—as a congregation—to help make a living wage a reality here. After much research and deliberation about this complicated issue, we came to the conclusion that our best "action" was to provide the most accurate information possible about the two minimum wage citizen initiatives that were on the November ballot: Proposition 414 (the Flagstaff City initiative) and Proposition 206 (the Arizona State initiative). So that is what we did, creating a table that compared the two propositions, category by category.

In the election, Flagstaff city voters passed the Prop. 414 measure; the state minimum wage measure, Prop. 206 also passed. The City Council declined to accept a proposal of an organization calling itself Elevate Flagstaff (essentially the local Chamber of Commerce) to call a special election this May. The Elevate proposal, which would have basically gutted (my term) Prop. 414, is—at this point—scheduled for the November, 2018, ballot. Then, in March, City Council voted to amend Prop. 414 (the local citizen initiative that passed last November), removing the requirement that Flagstaff's minimum wage be \$2 above the state minimum wage until 2021, and adjusting the timeline and start-up amount to this July and \$10.50/eventually \$12 respectively. It remains to be seen whether Bridging Flagstaff, yet another citizen group will come forward with its own initiative (AZ Daily Sun., 3/22/17).

The latest update: The lead AZ Daily Sun article (April 25) with the banner: "Dark Money' backs Elevate", reported that Elevate Flagstaff's political donations summary shows "most of its contributions coming from outside the city." Elevate... reported raising \$26,135 from January 1 through March 31...\$17,812 (was) in-kind donation" from a group that (succeeds another group) run by Phoenix political consultant Sean Beaconservative billionaires and political donors Charles and David Koch."

For me, the question is whether it is appropriate for a city election. What do YOU think?  
*Roz Clark, SJA Journalist*

**Beacon's Annual Yard Sale: Sat., June 3!**  
**Just four (4) weeks away: See checklist below:**

- ✓ Have identified items for Yard Sale and piled them up, inconspicuously.
- ✓ Have put them in a container, perhaps my vehicle, to haul to the "cottage" in Beacon's back yard.
- ✓ Have contacted Ready Rich (255-2515 or [clarkrr@q.com](mailto:clarkrr@q.com)) to request a truck/driver/muscular lifter to pick up items to big/heavy for me to haul.
- ✓ Have completed calendar assignment: Sat., June 3 (Yard Sale Day) and Fri. afternoon/evening, Set-up Party.
- ✓ Have contacted Ready Rich or another YS Team members Geoff Pickens, Katherine Hart or Dennis Spurlin with my questions.
- ✓ Have committed to these insider tips:
  1. Taking items that have failed to sell in one or more yard sales to my second-favorite charity, and
  2. Taking clothing to that same/another charity, since the Beacon Team believes deeply that it's too much work for the \$\$ raised.