

The Arizona Legislative Alert

Bringing Unitarian Universalist Values to Public Policy

Prepared by Anne L. Schneider, PH.D. All opinions are those of the author.

Langston Hughes: Words Worth Hearing

Access the PDF here: <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-060920.pdf>

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FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS!

<https://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/> put in your address, get your Legislative District
<https://www.azleg.gov/memberroster/> Legislative Members, by District

I have no words to express adequately the outrage, anguish, disappointment, sadness and fear for democracy and justice I feel over the events of the past week, especially the murder of Mr. George Floyd; the voting debacle in Georgia; the “send in the troops” mentality of the White House.

Let’s let Langston Hughes words be heard today:

Let America Be America Again

[Langston Hughes](#) - 1902-1967

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.

(America never was America to me.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed —
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,
Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

*Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?*

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.
I am the red man driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek —
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

I am the young man, full of strength and hope,
Tangled in that ancient endless chain
Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!
Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!
Of work the men! Of take the pay!
Of owning everything for one's own greed!

I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.
I am the worker sold to the machine.
I am the Negro, servant to you all.
I am the people, humble, hungry, mean —
Hungry yet today despite the dream.
Beaten yet today — O, Pioneers!
I am the man who never got ahead,
The poorest worker bartered through the years.

Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream
In the Old World while still a serf of kings,
Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,
That even yet its mighty daring sings
In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned
That's made America the land it has become.
O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas

In search of what I meant to be my home —
For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,
And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,
And torn from Black Africa's strand I came
To build a "homeland of the free."

The free?

Who said the free? Not me?
Surely not me? The millions on relief today?
The millions shot down when we strike?
The millions who have nothing for our pay?
For all the dreams we've dreamed
And all the songs we've sung
And all the hopes we've held
And all the flags we've hung,
The millions who have nothing for our pay —
Except the dream that's almost dead today.

O, let America be America again —
The land that never has been yet —
And yet must be — the land where *every* man is free.
The land that's mine — the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME —
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.

Sure, call me any ugly name you choose —
The steel of freedom does not stain.
From those who live like leeches on the people's lives,
We must take back our land again,
America!

O, yes,
I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath —
America will be!

Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,
The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,
We, the people, must redeem

The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
The mountains and the endless plain—
All, all the stretch of these great green states—
And make America again!

From *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*, published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Copyright © 1994 the Estate of Langston Hughes. Used with permission.

Initiatives/ Petitions

Let's Keep Trying! CORONA VIRUS has postponed almost everything, including gathering signatures for petitions. Nevertheless, here's the initiatives that are still active and need signatures by July! Let's keep trying. Sign up to volunteer. Put petitions out on your sidewalk!

- **One new initiative petition has been added to the "let's support these" list, and that is Health Care Rising** <https://www.healthcarerisingaz.org/>. It would require private hospitals to meet the same national health safety standards as public; provide some protection for patients with pre existing conditions; and end "surprise billing."
- **"Invest in Ed" initiative! Volunteers are needed to take petitions into your neighborhood, to your organizations, to your friends, for signatures. Sign up here:** https://investined.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=2020
- **Outlaw Dirty Money** - If you have not yet signed the "outlaw dirty money" petition or helped with it, here's the place to sign up for that one: <https://outlawdirtymoney.com/>
- **Limit ESA Expansion – Save Our Schools has launched a new initiative to limit ESA expansion. Volunteers needed to help gather signatures.** <https://sosarizona.org/volunteer/>
- **Fair Elections-** Another initiative currently gathering signatures is the Arizona for Fair elections <https://www.facebook.com/azfairelections/>. One section would allow voters to register as late as Election Day, automatically register people to vote when they apply for a driver's license, and allow more time for early voting. The Fair Elections Act also has a section that seeks to weaken the influence of big-money donors and corporation-funded committees in political campaigns.

Update on Covid-19

Now that Arizona and almost every state is relaxing its “stay at home” orders, it is incumbent upon each of us to stay safe and to keep everyone we come in contact with safe, too. Just because restaurants can now serve in their dining room, or others are not wearing masks, does not mean we individually need to relax our own health-protective measures.

Here’s Arizona’s Re-infection Covid-19 rate (the number of other persons estimated to be infected by each currently infected person). If the rate is greater than one, then the virus is expanding, if the number of less than one, the virus is retracting.

These numbers are found at <https://rt.live/> and part of the problem is that the analysts are constantly updating all of their figures and making adjustments on the impact of increased testing and newly categorized cases! So, the data in the last AZ Legislative Alert showed Arizona with a steady downward trend, but these adjustments have put Arizona right at a .99 or 1.00 reinfection rate and show no improvement since mid April. And, this week, the previous figures back to April 22 have again been revised, but show a very strong upward shift in late May and early June.

3/24 – 1.07

3/31 – 1.04

4/7 - 1.00

4/15 – .99

4/22 - .91

4/29 - .91

5/5 - .95

5/12 - 1.02

5/19 - 1.07

5/16 – 1.06

6/2 – 1.06

Here are three exceptionally good, scientifically-based analyses that are worth reading. For your convenience, I extracted from them some of the most salient points and you can read that in an earlier AZ Legislative Alert: : <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-051220.pdf>

RISKS Know Them, Avoid them. <https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them> - Dr. Erin Bromage is an Associate Professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. This article reviews dozens (maybe hundreds) of research studies of how corona 19 spreads.

All about masks. <https://www.datamotion.com/category/blog/> - This information is a blog written by Peter Tippet, MD, PhD. Tippet is Chairman of the DataMotion Board of Directors and currently serves as the CEO of careMESH. The blog was originally published on

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/saving-your-health-one-mask-time-peter-tippett-md-phd/>

R_t scores State by state: How fast is the virus still spreading?¹ <https://rt.live/> These are up-to-date values for R_t, a key measure of how fast the virus is growing. **It's the average number of people who become infected by an infectious person. If R_t is above 1.0, the virus will spread quickly. When R_t is below 1.0, the virus will stop spreading.**

Resources: [How to use Request to Speak](#) [How to use Resist.Bot](#) [Contacts](#) [Action](#)

[To see the full digest of bills from the 2020 legislative session, go to the PDF: <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-040320digest.pdf>). The House could decide to take up some of their own that were ready for a full vote as an attempt to persuade the Senate to come back into session.

Become a Deputy Registrar, help Get Out the Vote 2020 (postponed, but keep this in mind).

If you live in Maricopa County, you can become a “deputy Registrar” and get regular updates on how you can help GOTV (get out the vote) in 2020. Once trained, you will get regular updates on where and when volunteers are needed to help insure that every eligible person is registered and able to vote in 2020. If training resumes before the election, here’s where you could find out: <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Governor [602-542-4331](tel:602-542-4331) , or [e-mail](#).

Name

Phone Fax

[Senator Martha McSally \(R- AZ\)](#) 202 224-2235 202 228-2862 contact@mcsally.senate.gov

[Senator Kyrsten Sinema \(D- AZ\)](#) 224-4521 226-4386 contact@sinema.senate.gov

[Rep Tom O'Halleran \(D – 01\)](#) 225-3361 225-3462 <https://ohalleran.house.gov/contact>

[Rep Ann Kirkpatrick \(D – 02\)](#) 225-2542 225-0378 <https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact>

[Rep Raul M. Grijalva \(D – 03\)](#) 225-2435 225-1541 <https://grijalva.house.gov/connect-with-raul>

[Rep Paul A. Gosar \(R – 04\)](#) 225-2315 226-9739 <https://gosar.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

[Rep Andy Biggs \(R – 05\)](#) 225-2635 226-4386 <https://biggs.house.gov/contact>

¹ <https://techcrunch.com/2020/04/18/instagram-founders-rt-live/>. These data are compiled by Instagram founders Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger

Rep David Schweikert (R – 06)	225-2190	225-0096	https://schweikert.house.gov/contact-form
Rep Ruben Gallego (D – 07)	225-4065	225-1655	https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact
Rep Debbie Lesko (R – 08)	225-4576	225-6328	https://lesko.house.gov/contact/
Rep Greg Stanton (D – 09)	225-9888	225-9731	https://stanton.house.gov/contact

U.S. Senate –

- **Kyrsten Sinema** - 825B&C Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-4521
Phoenix Phone: 602-598-7327 **Email:** contact@sinema.senate.gov
- **Martha McSally** _B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-2235
Email: contact@mcsally.senate.gov

Request to Speak – This is a way to “be heard” at the legislature without being there at all! But, first, you must be signed up. If you have signed up in the past, your old information will still get you in. If not, then go to the capitol, go to the first floor of senate or house buildings, 1700 W. Washington, and use the computer to sign up. There are people there to help you. Then, here’s how to use it there or from your phone or your computer at home:

- Get the # of the bill – You can get it from this newsletter.
- On the azleg.gov site <https://www.azleg.gov/> click on Legislative Information, then on Request to Speak
- Click on “new request” (on the menu on the left)
- Put in the bill #. (or put in name of a committee, and hit “search” to see the committee’s upcoming agenda and choose the bill #)
- You should get a message (scroll down if needed). If it says “no active agenda” then it isn’t before a committee. If you want to register your opinion anyway, click on “my bill positions” (on the menu on the left), and indicate yes or no on the bill.
- If it is before a committee, (scroll down a little to see) it will ask if you actually want to speak at the committee hearing (probably not, just click “no”) and then register for/against and put in your comment if you want.

If you want to review the bill, click on “documents” and review the bill itself or the House or Senate “fact sheet.”

- Use Resistbot to [text your state lawmakers!](#) Text STATE to 50409 to try it out.

Resistbot.io - How to use it. Click on the “messages” icon on your I-phone, then click on the pencil in the top right-hand corner. You will get a “To: “ screen. Put in 504-09 and then in the message type “resist.” They will respond and ask for your zip code or address and what you want to do. This is a free service, reportedly developed by volunteers. It will ask for your zip code or address, and then you can send a fax, letter, make a phone call, send an e-mail to Sen. Sinema and McSally and the House member as well or even to Governor Ducey.

I just did it this morning and selected “call.” They called me back connecting me to each Senators office and I left a message for McSally and actually talked to a staff member in Sinema’s office.

After you have sent several, it will ask you which of the various people you want it sent to. At first, it just sends to all three, later it will add state-level elected officials, too. You get more services after you’ve used it awhile!

[Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation](#) –

Anne L. Schneider, Ph.D. is a member of the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. VUU’s staff includes Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette; Music Director, Katie Seifert; Director of Faith Formation, Marci Beaudoin, Administrator, Sue Ringler. VUU is located at 6400 W. Del Rio Drive, Chandler, AZ 480 899 4249 VUU holds services at 10:30 to 11:30 on Sunday. Currently, by zoom! Contact the office to get the zoom link.