



April 2017

Upcoming Events

April 15

Earth Day Celebration
Shawnee Mission East HS
10am – 3pm (farmer's market open)

April 19

Potluck and Justice:
Kansas Sierra Club
6:00 PM @ SMUUCH

April 22

March for Science – Kansas City
10 – 2pm: Washington Square Park
Pershing & Grand - KCMO

April 29

Climate Change March
1-3pm Washington Square Park
Pershing & Grand - KCMO

Dr. Sofia Khan of KC for Refugees Speaks at SMUUCH

Every day, 34,000 refugees are forced out of their homes. Worldwide, there are 63 million people who have been forced to flee their homes. This worldwide number is the highest ever recorded, according to the United Nations.



So when Dr. Sofia Khan, founder of KC for Refugees, came to speak at SMUUCH, the natural question was: How can we help? Dr. Khan outlined numerous ways that organizations assist the roughly 1,000 refugees who settle in the KC metro area annually. You can participate in donation drives, sponsor families, or volunteer to mentor young refugees – in fact, more than half of all refugees are under 18. Or, you can show support by attending the group's quarterly meetings.

All refugees who settle in the U.S. have undergone a stringent screening process and are strategically placed in areas with family or others from their homeland. Agencies such as Della Lamb and Catholic Charities are contractually required to help refugees for only 90 days. After that, the hope is that the community will step in. KC for Refugees helps provide furniture, community connections, financial support, and love.

"As a spiritual person, as a humanitarian, I am honored to help settle refugees," Dr. Khan said. "They are such an asset to our communities and we are so much stronger because of their presence."

If you'd like to help, visit kcforrefugees.weebly.com or on facebook at: KC for Refugees.

Refugee Facts:

- ☐ Most refugees are helped by countries that are predominantly Muslim. Top host countries: Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia and Jordan.
- ☐ Last year, most refugees came from: the Congo, Syria, Burma, Iraq and Somalia.
- ☐ After one year in the U.S., refugees are eligible to apply for a green card and after five years, they can apply to be citizens.

Social Justice Council members

Adam Wathen · Nancy Mays ·
Yvonne Gibbons · Joan Langmack ·
Marcia Rinehart

SMUUCH Supports ACLU Training on Immigrant Rights

On March 11, the ACLU streamed a nationwide training to launch a grassroots mobilization to counter Trump administration attempts to “enact policies that violate people’s constitutional rights.” Joanne Sunshower, a friend of SMUUCH, facilitated the training at our church.

This initiative trains citizens to develop relationships with city, county, and state law enforcement officials to encourage adoption of nine policies that protect immigrant rights. The Trump Administration wants to enlist local police to act as extensions of the Immigration Correction & Enforcement (ICE) beyond established boundaries. Publicity regarding this aggressive change to Obama’s policies has already increased the fear and isolation within our communities, impacting health and safety. “As a principle of a working Democracy, citizens need to take initiative to engage police loyalty to protect our communities. This guarantees our safety and inoculates them from political pressure toward inhumane authoritarianism.” says Sunshower.

Meetings with the Johnson County Sheriff resulted in discovering they already use 8 of the 9 policies. Next we are meeting with Olathe, Overland Park, & JCCC police. We are also coaching residents of other cities to meet with their police. Want to get involved? To learn more contact Joanne Sunshower – mindful@gmail.com

Freedom Cities is a project of the national ACLU. Our local Kansas ACLU is working on legislation & developing a Rapid Response coalition of immigration attorneys, social service agencies, faith communities, & others. Read their letters explaining legal reasons why local police should not act on behalf of ICE: <https://www.aclukansas.org/>

SOCIAL JUSTICE POT LUCK SPEAKER CRAIG WOLFE: THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: It’s real. What can we do?

APRIL 19 at 6:00

Craig Wolfe is an activist for environmental issues affecting our community, our nation and our world. He has been trained by Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project to make presentations regarding the Climate Emergency. Currently newsletter editor of the Kansas Sierra Club he works to promote local initiatives to Save our Planet.

Craig is President of the Heartland Renewable Energy Society, and co-founder of the KC Climate Coalition. This knowledgeable speaker will not only entertain but will focus on the issues and opportunities we have to do something now.

Plan to join us on April 19. We invite friends and neighbors to join us on this important issue affecting our future. Let us know if you would like us to alert other groups about this presentation.

Oscar Nominated Documentary to Be Shown at All Souls KC

Ava DuVernay’s Oscar-nominated documentary **13th** will be shown April 30 at All Souls Church at 2:00pm. The showing is hosted by the Council of Progressive Political Groups of Greater Kansas City

The documentary draws a thread through slavery, the reconstruction Jim Crow laws, anti-civil rights actions in the 60s, criminalization of African American males, the “War on Drugs,” and culminates in today’s mass incarceration of African Americans in privatized prisons.

Together these stories paint a picture of the systemic and intersectional racism that has led to today’s Black Lives Matter movement and other social justice questions of our day.

13th is also available to stream on NETFLIX.

