

SCQM San Diego Border Tour with Pedro Rios and Shan Cretin

Sunday, April 28, 2019
10:30am–3:00pm (Free)

Questions/RSVP: Arthur Kegerreis
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The SCQM Peace and Social Concerns Committee would like to invite you to a San Diego Border Tour on the day after Spring Session. The tour will be led by AFSC's **Pedro Rios**, who also presented the 2017 SCQM workshop "Defending the Rights of Immigrants." Pedro runs AFSC's San Diego Office and has been active in immigrant rights defense at the border for twenty five years.

The tour will visit Las Americas Outlets Shopping Mall, near the San Ysidro port of entry, and Friendship Park, at the beach border wall. Pedro will give presentations about both locations. A Border Church service is held in Friendship Park, and participants are welcome to participate in or observe the service.

Immigration Concerns are currently one of the primary topics of discussion in the news, and this is a rare opportunity to see the locations where a lot of the controversy is taking place, learn first-hand what is really happening there from well-informed sources, and to bear witness to what is happening at our border.

Park regulations require us to keep our group under 25 participants, so we are requesting RSVP registration to ensure that interested participants can join us at Friendship Park. *Please note that the park is challenging for people with mobility issues. Also, please bring walking shoes and sun protection.* All ages are welcome and encouraged to join the tour.

We are in the process of organizing overnight accommodations for interested participants for Saturday night following SCQM Spring Session. Please let us know if you need overnight arrangements.

Tour route on Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/ywEgyrLgRtk>

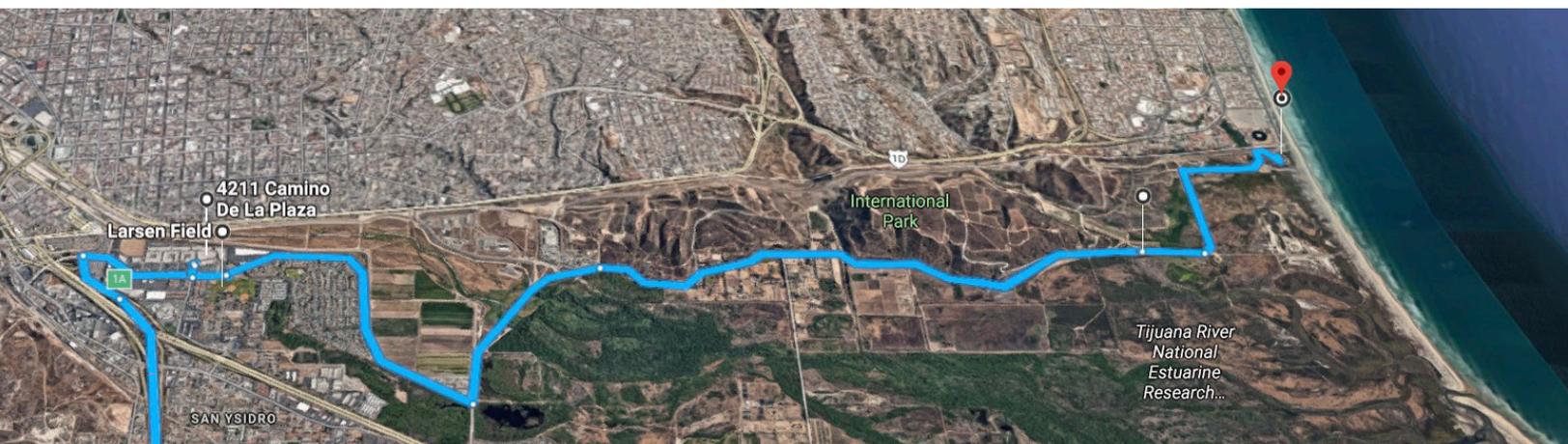


Shan Cretin, former General Secretary of AFSC and member of Santa Monica Friends Meeting, will also be sharing about her experience in the Interfaith "Love Knows No Borders: A moral call for migrant justice" demonstration last December. Shan and AFSC's Lucy Duncan were among the many religious leaders arrested for their non-violent participation in this event. This prayerful action was motivated by the Government's hostile response to a migrant caravan seeking asylum at our border.

Loves Knows No Borders:
A moral call for migrant justice!
<https://migrantjustice.afsc.org/>

Why Were These Interfaith Leaders Arrested at the US-Mexico Border?
The Nation: <https://bit.ly/2YglnZ>

YouTube: Religious leaders and activists arrested at the border
<https://youtu.be/I05hiUDn5To>



Tour Schedule:

10:30 AM

Meet at Larsen Field in San Ysidro

10:45 AM

Visit site of primary border wall at Las Americas Outlets Shopping Mall

Brief discussion on CBP abusive practices at ports

See PedWest

Site of tear gas incident

11:10 AM

Arrive at Border Field State Park parking lot

Brief overview of what to expect:

11:30 AM

Walk in to Border Field State Park towards Friendship Park

Walk and talk (though this is challenging when individuals walk at different paces. It will be important to be as together as possible)

12:15 PM

Arrive at Friendship Park, lunch, and presentation at bench area (everyone is encouraged to bring a sack lunch)

12:30 PM

Shan's presentation

12:45 PM

Pedro presents on Friendship Park history and implications of increased border enforcement

1:00 PM

Go over to enforcement zone (Option: witness Border Church or depart on your own) *When we are at Friendship Park, we might not all be permitted to enter as a group inside the enforcement zone. Border Patrol limits the number to 10. This means that most of us will have to witness it from the outside. Priority inside the enforcement zone is usually given to the families that visit from afar. Since most will be visiting from afar, this is an interesting part of the visit, to walk into the enforcement zone and witness how families meet-up with the border wall dividing them.*

2:15 PM – return to parking lot (45 min walk)

3:00 PM – Conclusion of border visit and depart area

Border communities should no longer bear the brunt of poor policy planning. We must commit to moving away from militarizing our neighborhoods, and instead, invest in projects that will uphold the dignity of our diverse and dynamic people and regions.



—PEDRO RIOS
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE
COMMITTEE, SAN DIEGO



Pedro Rios serves as director of the AFSC's U.S./Mexico Border Program and on the steering committee of the Southern Border Communities Coalition and the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium. A native San Diegan, Pedro has worked on immigrant rights and border issues for 25 years. Pedro currently oversees a program that documents abuses by law enforcement agencies, working with diverse community groups, advocating for policy change, and accompanying migrant communities in their leadership development.

Shan was arrested at the Love Knows No Borders action sponsored by AFSC on December 10, which is International Human Rights Day. The event launched a week of solidarity actions, where over 70 events were held between December 10 and December 18 (International Migrants' Day). Our intention for the week of action was to bring attention to the immoral decisions the administration has made that affect the lives of migrants, asylum seekers, and border communities. There is a lot of information on-line that is useful to have for a fuller description of what took place on that date.

