

DAVID A. SYLVESTER

www.davidasyvester.com
Email: david@davidasyvester.com
Bloomington, Indiana

WRITER, TEACHER & SOCIAL WITNESS

I join with all people of good will who are responding to the universal call to work for personal and social transformation in a suffering, confused and broken world. My work and ministry have been through teaching, writing and social witness.

WRITING

"Defending Hope and Freedom against Fear and Repression in Honduras," February 12, 2018, Tikkun Magazine online, Berkeley, CA.

"Listening to Leonard Cohen in the Time of Trump," Summer, 2017, Tikkun Magazine, Vol. 32, No. 3 2017.

"A Journey of Passion: Spirit and Horror in Christian Holy Season," Summer 2011, *Tikkun Magazine*.

"Why the Defrocking of Fr. Roy Bourgeois Will Test the Spirituality and Sincerity of the SOAW Protest," April 12, 2011, Tikkun Daily Blog.

"The Catholic Crisis Part I: How Pop Culture Gets It Wrong and Distorts the Truth" July 26, 2010, *Tikkun Daily Blog*.

"The Catholic Crisis Part II: When Faith is Challenged, Catholics Must Grow Up" July 27, 2010, *Tikkun Daily Blog*.

"Popular Art as Scripture: The Theological Failure of Secular Vision in American Beauty." May 2009, *New Wineskins*, Jesuit School of Theology.

"The Road from Journalism to Jail," May 2005, Nieman Reports, Harvard University

"Crossing the line at Fort Benning," January 2005, The Catholic Voice, Diocese of Oakland.

"The Invisible War on Iraq: Airstrikes are Dramatic Outburst of 8-year American Campaign that Uses Starvation as Strategy," Dec. 20, 1998, San Jose Mercury News, Perspective Section.

"Going Broke on \$44,500 a Year," March 1, 1987, *West Magazine*, San Jose Mercury News.

"Debt: The Disease of the '80s." Jan. 3, 1988, *West Magazine*, San Jose Mercury News.

TEACHING

- Adjunct lecturer, Oikos University, Oakland, CA.* 2011 - present
Taught one or two courses per semester in English Composition and Literature, History, the Synoptic Gospels and Gospel of John in the New Testament to 30 to 50 students in Bachelor of Theology degree program for Presbyterian ministry. Students are English language learners from Korea and Thailand. My classes follow "teaching by doing" methods. Students compile their writing into student-designed magazines.
- Adjunct lecturer, Holy Names University, Oakland, CA* 2012 - 2014
Taught introductory philosophy course PHILA-140-W, The Human Person, and inter-religious course RLST World Wisdom Traditions to undergraduates seeking Bachelor of Arts.
- Private Tutor in ESL Language and Natural Process Writing* 2012- 2015
Developed and taught English language learning program for private students of all ages with an emphasis on a natural learning process in reading and writing.
- Adjunct lecturer for journalism at various San Francisco Bay Area colleges* 1988- 1998
Taught undergraduate journalism and writing at UC Berkeley's School of Journalism, Santa Clara University's Mass Communication Department and Golden Gate University's English Department.

SOCIAL WITNESS & MINISTRY

- Salvadoran delegation member to Msgr. Oscar Romero canonization.* October 2018
Traveled to Vatican in Italy to join 10,000 delegates from Archdiocese of San Salvador for Mass of canonization of St. Oscar Romero, saint of the Americas, in St. Peter's Square, and delegation audience with Pope Francis.
- Member of Inter-religious Human Rights Delegations to Honduras.* 2018
Joined emergency delegations organized by SHARE- El Salvador, Berkeley, CA. to accompany social protesters during authoritarian takeover after presidential campaign. Accompanied Jesuit priest, Father Ismael Moreno Coto, known as Padre Melo, and Radio Progreso journalists to provide protection from death threats in Honduras.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Oakland, CA.*
Eucharistic Minister for Homebound and Infirm 2017 - 2020
Brought Eucharist monthly to residents of Oakland nursing home as part parish lay ministry to homebound. Temporarily halted during Covid.
Lay presider at Communion Services. 2017 - 2020
Led prayer service, gave gospel reflection, distributed Eucharist at a lay-led communion service as part of parish's lay apostolate.
Team Leader, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. 2009 - 2012

Participated and facilitated a team of three catechists, developed workshops, presentations and annual retreat for 9-month program

- Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, Oakland, CA*
 Sponsor at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for newcomers, 2013 - 2020
- Presidential election observer, Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad, San Salvador* March 2009
 Participated as a CIS election observer during the March 2009 election of Mauricio Funes, first FLMN candidate to win presidency under El Salvador's peace accords in 1992.
- Volunteer teacher, Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad, San Salvador* Summer, 2007
 Taught English as Second Language class to adult Salvadorans.
- Prisoner, FCI-Lompoc, CA* April-July 2006
 Convicted of criminal trespassing, federal misdemeanor, paid \$500 fine, served three months at federal prison camp, Lompoc, California.
- Civil disobedience, School of Americas Watch, Ft. Benning, GA* November 2005
 Participated in mass demonstration at U.S. Army infantry base, Fort Benning, Georgia as protest against U.S. military training in Central America; trespassed in deliberate act of civil disobedience.
- Congressional lobbying, Education for Peace in Iraq (EPIC), Washington, D.C.* 1999-2001
 Trained and participated in congressional lobbying against U.S. sanctions on Iraq with EPIC, organized by Eric Gustafson, U.S. veteran.
- Humanitarian delegation to Iraq, Voices in the Wilderness* October 1998
 Brought medical supplies to Iraq in deliberate violation of U.S. sanctions with Voices in the Wilderness, organized by Kathy Kelly.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Jesuit Retreat House, Los Altos, CA.* 2017-present
 Frequent Ignatian silent retreats, including the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, 30-day Jesuit long retreat, silent and guided by spiritual director, 2017, and annual Ignatian retreats.
- Mercy Center, Sisters of Mercy, Burlingame, CA*
 Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, 19th Annotation. 1990, 1999,
 Nine-month program based on Spiritual Exercises in everyday life 2005, 2011
- Ongoing spiritual direction at Mercy Center and Jesuit Retreat Center.* 1989 - 2022
- International Zen Dojo, Mountain View, CA* 1987 - 95
 Member of Zen Buddhist meditation center, Japanese Rinzai tradition.
 Attended monthly weekend Zen meditation sittings and biannual three-day retreats directed by Hosakawa Roshi from Daihonzan Chozen-ji, Honolulu, Hawaii.

EDUCATION

Summer Hebrew Intensive: Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT. Completed 7-week intensive immersion program in Modern Hebrew, speaking and reading only in Hebrew. July - August, 2017.

Master of Arts: Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate Theological Union, specializing in Catholic-Jewish theology. Thesis on revisions in Christian theology of Judaism in aftermath of Holocaust. 2012.

Master of Theological Studies: Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Graduate Theological Union. Thesis: "Recovering the *Via Purgativa*: How the 12-Step Program Revives the Christian Tradition of Spiritual Formation." 2009.

Certificate in Contemporary Christian Living, Mercy Center, Burlingame: Three-year introduction to Christian prayer, faith, and practice. 1989-92.

Master of Arts: State University of New York at Albany, Economics. 1983.

Bachelor of Arts: University of Chicago, European History, including junior year at American College in Paris. 1974.

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL WRITING & EDITING

Editorial Assistant to Rabbi Michael Lerner 2010-2011

While enrolled as a full-time student, I worked on various projects on the rabbi's proposal for a Global Marshall Plan, coordinated interns, wrote reports. Also assisted in research and in editing his book, *Embracing Israel/Palestine*, published by North Atlantic Books, in 2011.

San Jose Mercury News 1997-2005

Assistant Business Editor/Financial News: Supervised five financial reporters and coordinated and edited quarterly venture capital, annual salary survey and performance chart of top 150 companies in Silicon Valley. *Financial Writer, San Jose Mercury News:* Wrote over 200 articles on Silicon Valley economy, including Nasdaq tech bubble.

San Francisco Chronicle. 1990-96

South Bay Bureau Chief: Reported on regional news in Santa Clara County.

San Jose Mercury News 1983-88

Technology writer: Reported on semiconductor industry, venture capital investors and Silicon Valley culture. Developed The Money Tree quarterly survey of Silicon Valley venture capital investments.

AWARDS & HONORS

Visiting Scholar at UCLA's Center for Social Policy and Comparative History. Studied globalization and alternative economics under Prof. Robert Brenner, economic historian. 2004.

Nieman Fellow, Harvard University. 9-month journalism fellowship. 1985-86.

UCLA's Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism. "Going Broke on \$44,500 a Year" *West Magazine*. 1988.

Investment Company Institute-American University Award, Magazine category, "Going Broke on \$44,500 a Year" *West Magazine*. 1988.

"The Big Man and The Minister," reprint of my article in a college-level journalism textbook, *Feature Writing for Newspapers and Magazines*, Harper & Row Publishers, 1988.

Various state Associated Press reporting awards, on disappearing production jobs, children suffering in divorce, ravages of toxic waste. 1983-87.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Moderately fluent in conversation.

French: Moderately fluent in conversation and reading.

Biblical Greek: Able to translate and teach New Testament and patristic texts.

Modern and Biblical Hebrew: Able to translate and teach Hebrew Scriptures, Rabbinic texts and acquainted with modern spoken Hebrew.

PERSONAL

Active member of St. Paul's Catholic Center, and St. Charles Borromeo Church, Bloomington, IN.

Former parishioner at *Our Lady of Lourdes* Parish, Oakland, CA. 1998-2020

Former active interfaith member, *Beyt Tikkeun* synagogue, Berkeley, CA. 2009-2020