

# IMMIGRATION (RM 2) THUR 27 MAY 2010

## GROUP ATTENDEES

Name	Email Address (or other contact info)	Church
ELVIRA ORTEZ	1-714 956-3691	cortez@losranchos.org
PAUL CHATMAN	1-714-531-6494	phlchatman@socialorro.com
BOB SCHWENKMEYER	662 6913593	BANDIKSCH@ADELPHIA.NET
Angelica Jimenez	(714) 600-8676 (cell)	angie.jimenez10@yahoo.com
Norma Galeana	(714) 604-9126 (c)	Norme99@aol.com
Rosa Pedilla	(714) 675-5104	
Betty Thompson	(714) 639-5683	bjtpilgrim@gmail.com
Wendy Tarr	714-502-4370	wendy.clue@gmail.com
LEANNE STEAMEN	949) 481-9349	steamet@cox.net
SCOTT BULLOCK	949-378-1155	scott@irvinepres.org
Cheryl Raine	714.801.4345	pastorcheryl@fpcgg.org
Elsie Hill	714-534-4046	ecrossstich@aol.com
Werner Ramirez	362.493- <del>3553</del> x102	werner@j5PC.org
SHARON WAKAMOTO	714-731-0247	sharonwaka@aol.com
Sarah Rimack	714-350-0323	Sarah_rimack@yahoo.com
Daniel Orozco	714-824-1752	dannynd@gmail.com
Lynn Stone	714-544-7070	APlynn@tustinpresbyterian.org
Suzanne Darweesh	714-738-1785	sdarweesh@aol.com
Lance Ailes	714/542-7253	Lance@fpcsa.com
Erin Dunigan		erin.dunigan@gmail.com
Daniel Jimenez	714/542-7253	daniel.jimenez@sbcglobal.net
Estuardo Bazini-Barakat	(213) 926-9985	ebazinibarakat@aol.com
PAT HERNANDEZ	949.636.4332	THECAMPYMAN@AOC.COM

## OPEN SPACE REPORT TEMPLATE

An Immigration Discussion

Name of Session/Topic

Lynn Stone

Recorder's Name

APLynn@tustinpresbyterian.org

Email or Contact Info

Leader(s)-(include contact information):

As the recorder of this Open Space discussion, please include in your notes:

◆ *Key Points of the presentation and discussion-*

Rev. Daniel Jimenez and Rev. Estuardo Baziri-Barakat shared their stories of how they came to be in the United States. In the discussion that followed, the group grappled with the complex issues this subject presents: what is legal? what is just? what is God's will for how we treat one another. Opposing points of view were voiced, but with compassion and grace.

◆ *Recommendations and/or Resources arising from the discussion-*

- Immigration history in Orange County (attached)
- "Strangers in the Land" 6-week Bible Study by Sojourners
- Wendy Tan of CLUE - Clergy, Laity United for Economic Justice

◆ *any Follow Up and/or "Next Steps"-*

- Continue in conversation
- Join in Bible Studies
- Invite Danny Jimenez & Lance Allen to "take their show on the road." so others can learn how to stand beside families who struggle with this issue
- Julia Thorn is coming back to Los Ranchos

◆ *any Invitation to Take Action or Join in Follow Up Activities.*

Look for announcements on the Wave!

## **An overview of Immigration History in Orange County**

*From an interview with Rusty Kennedy,*

*Executive Director of the OC Human Relations Commission*

*Interview conducted by Suzanne Darweesh*

During the 50s, 60s, and 70s, a period of great growth, Orange County became predominately white, suburban and conservative. At the same time there were pockets of Latino barrios. Military bases and the aerospace industry brought some African Americans to Fullerton and Santa Ana. Latino farm workers were brought in through the bracero program, which resembled slave labor in a way. The employers determined the pay and almost all the conditions of employment. A certain amount of money was deducted from bracero pay, which was supposed to have been given to the farm workers at the completion of their work, but was not. (There was recently an attempt to rectify this). The Latino barrios grew in size, more as a result of births than immigration. During and after the Great Depression a wave of deportation of Latinos occurred in which legal citizens were summarily sent to Mexico without any opportunity to prove they were here legally. It seems as if during any period of economic hardship, sentiment turns against immigrants as scapegoats.

Discrimination has also been directed to other communities. Anti-immigrant sentiment and housing deed restrictions aimed at the Japanese and Chinese communities flourished. Chinatown in Santa Ana was burned down. Chinese male workers were not allowed to bring wives and families with them. After the Vietnam War, around 1975, an influx of about 100,000 Vietnamese immigrants arrived in Orange County. Also immigrants from Korea, India and Arab countries added to the OC mixture.

In the mid 1980s during the Reagan administration, immigration reform legislation was passed which granted citizenship to many undocumented residents. Some people called it amnesty; it had a net economic gain for the country. At the same time, Congressman Rohrabacher opposed this legislation, as did Barbara Coe and later Jim Gilchrist of the Minutemen.

In 1994 anti-immigrant backlash resulted in CA Proposition 187, which would have denied public education and other services to undocumented children. It was tied up in court for some time and finally, most of it was declared unconstitutional. When Governor Gray Davis took office in 1999, he refused to appeal the court decision.

After September 11, racial profiling and hate crimes increased in Orange County and elsewhere. Daily hiring halls were closed in the cities of Costa Mesa, Orange and Brea. The local police departments began to cooperate with ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement, part of the federal government) raids of farm fields, furniture factories and construction sites. Today most jails have agents who check the immigrant status of arrested persons.

Immigrants are often blamed for recessions and unemployment. Actually, immigrants fuel the economy because of increased wages and fewer jobs shipped overseas, leading to a positive economic effect. For example, undocumented persons contribute annually about \$1 billion that is paid into Social Security and which will never be collected. The undocumented are ineligible to collect social welfare, housing benefits, or health care, yet they pay sales taxes and other fees.

Any immigration reform legislation should include family reunification and a clear path to citizenship for those who have resided and worked in the US for many years. The Dream Act would grant those children who were brought to this country illegally the opportunity to higher public education at the same tuition rates to which native-born residents are entitled. Qualifying undocumented youth would be eligible for a 6-year conditional path to citizenship that requires completion of a college degree or two years of military service. It has not yet passed Congress.

Today the K-12 student population in Orange County is approximately 45% Latino, 33% Anglo, 16% Asian-American and 2% African-American. In addition, one third of the OC population was born outside the US. It will be interesting to see the results of the latest census.