



# Latino and Latina Roundtable

of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley



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## Successful Annual César Chávez Breakfast

March 28, 2014 at Avalon, Pomona Fairplex

In celebrating the life of civil rights and labor leader Cesar Chavez who used his life to empower others, the Latino/a Roundtable (LRT) held its' 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast Fundraiser.

Over 350 supporters honored four individuals whose work embodies the values and practices of Cesar Chavez. The honorees included: Jerry Ryan, past UFW union organizer and Local President of the U.S. Postal Workers; Kevin de Leon, California Senator of the 22nd District; Stacey Wilkins, Garey High School Principal and the Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition. College scholarships were presented to students who exemplify the work of Cesar Chavez through their community engagement: Laila Alvarez and Itzel Romero, Pomona High School, Maria Rodriguez, Pitzer College and Dora Lopez, Cal Poly Pomona.

**We thank all those who supported this event and invite you to the next one on March 27, 2015.**

## César Chávez Pilgrimage

April 12, 2014 Pomona

For over a decade, the Latino/Latina Roundtable has proudly participated in organizing the annual César Chávez Pilgrimage in Pomona. Inspired by César's legacy, the annual spring event brings together a diversity of community, student and parent organizations, businesses, trade unions, health, religious, and educational institutions to work for multi-ethnic unity, cultural and spiritual enrichment, and educational opportunity.

The event commences with an opening ceremony, followed by a procession through the streets of Pomona, honoring work for social change through non-violence. The Pilgrimage is followed by a tree-planting ceremony and a community celebration featuring a participatory Aztec friendship dance, music, ballet folklórico, and poetry, as well as food and information tables.

Among its accomplishments, the Pilgrimage has raised thousands of scholarship dollars for students in participating high schools and has joined in campaigns to support day laborers and driver's license equality.



## LRT Annual Social and 1st Platica

July 12, 2014 at Ganesha Park & August 10, 2014



We hosted our yearly gathering for our membership to celebrate our accomplishments from organizing and come together as an organization to foster relationships amongst our members. It was a wonderful gathering in the park with over 50 participants of members and their families. We spent the day getting to know one another better, the kids played soccer, hiking and playing board games. This event allowed us to get to know one another's families and for our families to participate in our organizing efforts. As an organization we are committed to creating positive social change within our community in addition to living out those same values within our membership manifesting a supportive network. Our hope is for our annual social to consistently be a place for our membership to rejuvenate, build and celebrate!

Sunday August 10 we hosted our first convivio in the home of the Gonzalez-Valenzuela Family. During our membership retreat in February the Organizational Committee was charged with the task to create more opportunities for our members to deepen relationships. As a result the committee decided to create convivio gatherings where members and interested folks could come together to be with another. The afternoon consisted of a small potluck with snacks to share and a reflection from members of why they were a part of the organization, what drives them to organize, the values they hope to instill in their families and the vision they have for our membership. It was a beautiful time of connecting through sharing and listening. Our goal is for each committee to host a convivio every quarter. We hope to see you at our next one in the New Year with the intention of creating continuous sacred spaces for our membership.

## Pomona City Council Candidates forum

October 7, 2014 Pomona City Hall

More than 150 people packed the Pomona City Hall for a city council candidate's forum organized by the Latin@ Roundtable, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, One Million NIU, and the PEOC. Of the ten candidates running, only two, Ginna Escobar and Adriana Robledo, were not present. The candidates responded to an array of questions from the audience that focused on a variety of issues including community/police relations, immigrant rights, pollution, and economic development. The forum was successful in drawing a diversity of residents from every district and from community-based organizations.



## César Chávez Park Restoration and Community in Mobilization

November 15 and December 1, 2014



After the April, 2014 César Chávez Pilgrimage, a group (that has included city councilperson John Nolte, community parents, students, PUSD, Cal Poly MECHA, MASA and César Chávez Center, and members of the César Chávez Pilgrimage Committee and the Latino/Latina Roundtable) have been meeting to beautify the park, hold tutoring/mentoring sessions with students from the area, and develop plans for restoring the murals and develop future plans for the park. Some community parents proposed the celebration should coincide with the meaning of the Mexican Revolution. In the process of organizing the celebration, there was a disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa in Guerrero, Mexico. Since some of the Pomona participants in the committee had personal experiences of the loss of family members in Mexico, the celebration was organized around the theme of remembering the 43 students. Over 150 participants attended the event on November 15 that included a song on the 43 sung by the Son Real band and a teatro presentation by Mexican actress Elpidia Carrillo. Moved by the event, councilmember's John Nolte and Cristina Carrizosa, with the help of the LRT, wrote and presented a city council resolution calling for an independent international investigation into the disappearance of the 43 students and the prosecution of those responsible at all levels. Subsequently, the city council brought international attention to the city of Pomona by unanimously supporting the resolution on December 1, 2014. Meanwhile, the work of redeveloping the park has continued with tutoring and mentoring sessions being held every week. There are also plans for future meetings with the residents of the area to upgrade the park with a bathroom, a hired employee to develop youth programs, and a long-term outlook for a community center at the site.



More than 250 people, led by the Latino and Latina Roundtable and the NAACP Pomona Valley Branch, marched on December 5<sup>th</sup> in a Pomona Peace Walk that NAACP local president Jeanette Ellis-Royston called “a solidarity with the victims of violence committed by law enforcement across the nation and those that carry out such violence.” A common theme expressed by LRT President Jose Calderon and other speakers was the importance of not taking out our frustrations over systemic inequalities on “oneself or against each other” but organizing for quality jobs, health care, education, and economic development. The march, which included participants from diverse communities, began with a rally in front of the Pomona Police Department and ended with a showing of the film “Cesar’s Last Fast” at the Village theatre on Indian Hill.

## **COMMUNITY FORUMS and DACA CLINIC**

The LRT in collaboration with the Pomona Unified School District, the Parent’s Committee of the Pomona School District, Pomona Economic Opportunity Center (PEOC), Immigrant Youth Coalition of the Inland Empire (IYC-IE) the Plaza Comunitaria and the California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA) organized community information forums on AB 60, President Obama’s administrative relief and a DACA clinic. The forums were held at the Pomona School District, Village Indian Hill, Conference Center.

### **AB 60: June 22 and October 29, 2014**

Months prior to the introduction of Law AB60, under which undocumented Californians will be eligible to apply for drivers’ licenses (Jan.2015), the LRT launched a mass community-based campaign to end drivers’ license discrimination. Our campaign gathered more than 10,000 signatures with the help of various institutions and three delegations to Sacramento. Following the law’s passage, we have sponsored several community forums with various community groups. Approximately 300 people attended the first informational forum to hear from a representative from the Department of Motor Vehicles about the documents needed to apply for the license and steps to prepare to pass the written exam.

### **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Nov. 8, 2014**

On June 5, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced the renewal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. USCIS will continue to accept requests for DACA from individuals who have not previously sought to access the program. As of April 2014, 553,197 individuals have received DACA. The Clinic was coordinated by CIYJA and supervised by Attorney Russell Jaurequi.

### **Administrative Relief for Undocumented Immigrants: Dec. 10, 2014**

On November 20, President Obama announced an immigration executive action to deferred deportation for certain undocumented individuals, including: 1) Expansion of DACA. Now there is no age limit to qualify; 2) Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) for parents of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent resident children who have continuously resided in the U.S. from January 1, 2010 to the present, have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or 3 or more misdemeanor offenses. The applications will be accepted in May 2015; 3) Expansion of provisional waivers for green card applicants avoiding the 3 and 10 year bars if seeking status through a family member. Temporary relief from deportation will be provided for 3 years. Employment authorization for 3 years (may qualify for a social security number and driver’s license). The information was provided by Javier Hernandez, IYC-IE; Emilio Amaya, San Bernardino community Service Center; Attorney’s Russell Jaurequi and Patricia Corrales.



## **Upcoming Events**

### **LRT Member Retreat**

Feb. 14 (Pitzer College, 9am-5pm)

### **César Chávez Breakfast:**

March 27(8 am, Sheraton Hotel, Pomona)

### **César Chávez Pilgrimage:**

April 18th (PUSD to Garey High School, Pomona)