

THE LATINO AND LATINA ROUNDTABLE OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND POMONA VALLEY

SPRING NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

DEDICATION

BY: ROSE CALDERON

This newsletter is dedicated to our LRT friends and family who have lost someone to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of writing this note, in California alone, 62,759 individuals have died and 3.8 million have contracted the virus. Nationwide, we have passed 587,000 deaths and had to endure not only the havoc created by the right-wing thinking of many in this country, but we had to endure the lies and denial of many who don't believe this virus exists and as a result, are endangering many we know. As many of you know first-hand, our black and brown sisters and brothers have been hit the hardest by the lies at the highest levels of decision-makers in this country and their followers. Where many of us and our family and friends are essential workers, front line workers, older people, people of color, and as a result more at risk of getting the virus and fighting it due to either having to work in unsafe conditions, poor health, lack of health care or quality health care and fear of losing our jobs or housing. We want to give you our support and love during this trying time and work to help get us through this and to work on ensuring that this lack of compassion for the life of all humans does not continue. Together we can get through this period by working together for a better life for all.



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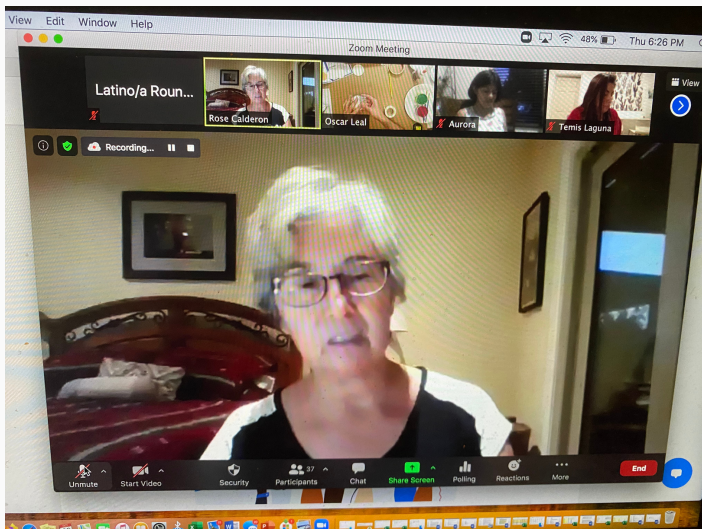
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President's Letter

BY: JOSE CALDERON

The LRT has come a long way from its beginning over 15 years ago as a loose-knit volunteer organization. In 2006, after the LRT led a march through 22 cities (from Claremont to Los Angeles) in support of “driver’s licenses for all,” the organization developed a more formal structure with membership and an eleven-member board of directors. Over the years, some of the highlights of the LRT’s work include: leading a demonstration of 10,000 from Ontario to Pomona to protest and stop immigration raids; changing checkpoint laws in the region; joining college for all coalition efforts in implementing college readiness initiatives; passing and defending sanctuary ordinances in local cities; supporting DACA, TPS, and Ethnic Studies; and implementing three annual events: Día de Los Muertos, Cesar Chavez Breakfast, and a Pilgrimage Scholarship March and Festival. As the LRT advances its strategic plan, it is including work focused on our quality-of-life environment and local wealth-building economic development. What stands out in these efforts is a noted history of commitment by LRT members to train new leaders, build multi-racial coalitions, and use whatever resources are available in the interests of our communities.



NEW ECONOMY

BY: JOHN NOLTE

The LRT decided this past year to make the “New Economy” a central pillar of its work. What do we mean by “New Economy”? It starts as a reaction to the obvious fact that the current economy is broken and failing large portions of the Latinx community, people in Pomona and the region, and all those facing inequities and oppression. This was clear before the pandemic—but the pandemic has made the problems crystal clear and more painful. There isn’t enough space to cataloge the misery here—but take just this couple of statistics as representative: In LA County, Latinos die of COVID at a rate nearly three times that of whites, and COVID-related deaths among Latinos have soared by almost 1,000% since November. It’s clear that the broken economy—which, for example, creates crowded housing, places Latinx workers disproportionately in dangerous jobs, and limits their access to quality health insurance and care—is driving these gut-wrenching inequities. The LRT has been working hard to do our part to provide relief to those in our community suffering pandemic-related setbacks. The work of our members and staff has been central to Pomona’s city initiatives to connect residents to rent and food relief. Our emPOWER program helps qualifying families save money where they can least afford to spend it now—on their electric bills. On a systemic level, we are ramping up our initiative to invite Anchor Institutions in the region (colleges, hospitals, cities, and other large nonprofits) to join a collaborative effort to direct the institutions’ purchasing power into the lowest income neighborhoods in Pomona to create cooperative businesses, hire locally, invest funds in community-based projects, and otherwise create community wealth. If you’d like to be involved in building the New Economy, please contact board member John Nolte: jgnolte@gmail.com. Join us as we start to build an economy that puts people—their health and dignity—first.

IMMIGRATION

BY: Madeline Rios and Angela Sanbrano

This summer’s June 30, 2020, Immigrant Right Forum featured immigrant rights activists and community members directly affected by anti-undocumented legislation and practices at the state and federal levels. Starting with a legal orientation from attorney Russell Jauregui, the forum covered issues ranging from the history of immigration law and the status of the DACA and TPS programs to the effect of California labor law changes on undocumented independent contractors who work under an ITIN number. Highlights included a presentation by a Quiche interpreter on his experiences working in asylum cases. A presentation by one of the founders of Cal Poly’s “De Pie,” one of the first undocumented student organizations focused on how the first step of that process was for that of its members to affirm their own self-worth. Members of the LRT immigrant rights committee then shared the Principles of Inclusive Immigration document which guides our approach towards advocacy work. These Principles include defense of the right for current and future immigrants to a reasonable path to citizenship, to seek and maintain employment, to freedom from discrimination on the basis of religion, gender, sexual orientation, or low-income status, and to be at the table in shaping immigration policy.



emPOWER & Environmental Justice

BY TEMIS LAGUNA

In 2020, the Liberty Hill Foundation partnered with the Latino and Latina Roundtable to bring to our community the emPOWER program. This program focuses on bringing information to our communities about clean energy and also programs available to promote sustainable energy usage. At the heart of this program is the belief that our communities deserve better and that access will transform our neighborhoods and cities for the better. The program's mission is to overcome barriers to sustainable energy usage commonly experienced in low-income and working-class communities of color. Ensuring that low-income households are taking advantage of all available cost-saving incentives, such as low- or no-cost energy efficiency programs, solar panel installations, and appliance rebates that result in lower utility bills. As an organization, we recognize that we are new to the Environmental Justice landscape, but we are not new to social justice work. In our short time with emPOWER, we realize that this work is intersectional and about social, political, and economic justice. We have learned so much and now want to keep the conversation going and highlight Environmental Racism and how pollution affects our physical and mental health, our overall wellness, and our sense of belonging. Environmental racism keeps our community surviving instead of thriving. It was tough to outreach and organize our community due to the pandemic. We began this program right when the state shut down to halt the spread of COVID. Changes in the county and state-wide COVID-19 regulations and orders resulted in our team utilizing social media to reach households that would be interested in participating. Our outreach had to be creative. We shared often across social media platforms, online events, advocacy, and tabling events. We collaborate with other community Environmental Justice leaders and organizations to spread information and educate our people. At the end of the year, we were able to reach 21,482 households! Talk about the power of community and organizing. Please share the information with your family and friends. Apply today at www.latinolatinaroundtable.org/empowerand follow us in IG and FB at @EmpowerPomona909



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

Our celebration of the Day of the Dead was very different in 2020. We could not be with our families and we lost many more people due to the pandemic. The way we grieve is different when we are in the company of our loved ones. This time our grief was contained in a way that left many of us lost and more isolated. Our time in confinement, resulted in us wanting to connect and create spaces out of necessity. Thanks to a grant from Tri-City Mental Health, we were able to carve safe spaces for our youth during this pandemic. This also showed us how as a community we can support each other in different ways. In October 2020, we hosted a series of weekly art workshops, to create our own Ofrendas at home, with the talented local artist Oscar Leal, Professor Lara Medina, and all the wonderful volunteers who helped us. The participants had their materials ready to create masks, flowers, and pan de Muerto made out of paper, as well as an altar. Our community came together through art. The results were spectacular, we could see the ingenuity and talent of our members, from the youngest to the oldest, everyone participated. We listened to our stories, our losses, we held each other with love and compassion, we demonstrated once again that distance does not matter if we have the same resilient heart. Thank you so much!



ETHNIC STUDIES

BY FABIAN PAVON

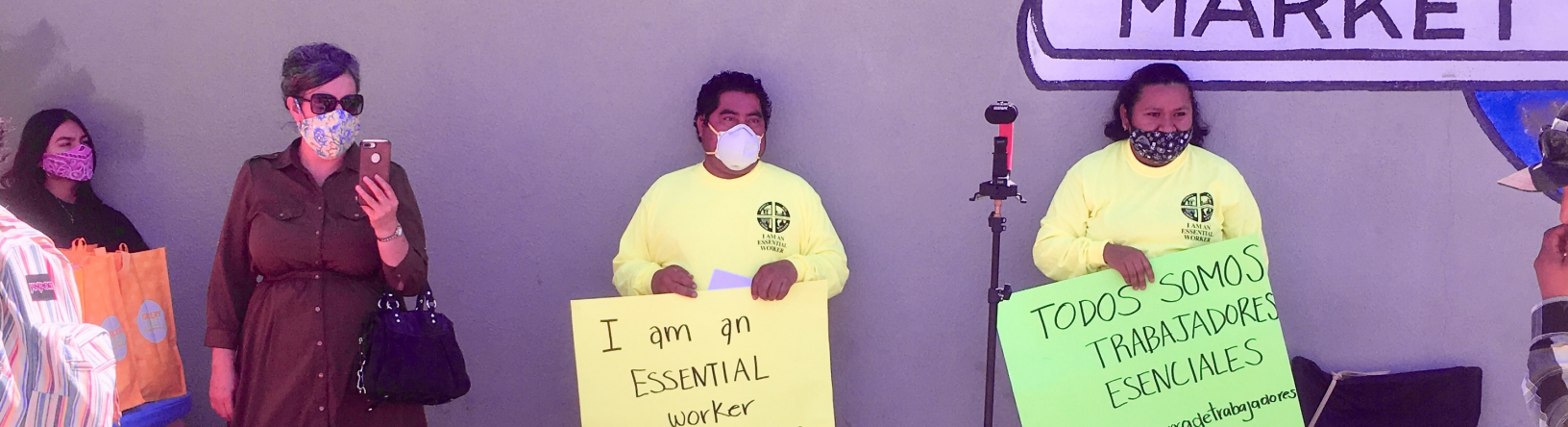
The LRT has played an instrumental role in the advancement of Ethnic Studies, both locally and statewide. Last year, we help multiple roundtable discussions where we had EthnicStudiesexperts educate the community on its ever-changing status. We shared petitions, called our state representatives, and sent emails that resulted in getting AB 331 out of the state's "suspense file". Although AB331 was later vetoed by the governor, we successfully advocated for AB1460, which led to making Ethnic Studies a graduation requirement at the Cal State University level. Locally, we have been working with the Pomona Education Coalition in our efforts in making Ethnic Studies a graduation requirement at PUSD. We led a march and have been flooding the public comment section during PUSD's Board meetings. We are currently discussing an EthnicStudiesresolution with PUSD's Administration and Board. ¡La lucha sigue!

COLLEGE FOR ALL

BY OSCAR SEGOVIA

Participating members of Latino/Latino Roundtable (LRT) organized a College for All Webinar titled Living the Dream that was held on November 18th, 2020. Pomona Unified School District provided the technological platform and the online flyers with links that allowed participants to register for the Webinar. Participating members of the LRT recruited students from various local colleges and universities to serve as panelists. Students from Garey, Pomona, and Chaffey High schools were recruited with an emphasis on first-generation students, or those whose families lack knowledge about the college experience. Those students who attended were able to hear the testimonials of the college students who shared their experiences contemplating, searching, selecting, and attending college. Despite Covid 19 restrictions, the online Zoom Webinar was a tremendous success, reaching out to students who heard firsthand from experienced, young college students who shared their invaluable input. Part II of the College for All Webinar will be held Wednesday, February 3rd and this meeting involves recruiting parents. LRT members recruited parents from the high schools mentioned above who will serve on a panel and share their experiences parenting their own children who are or who have already attended college. This session should be just as successful as Part I. LRT is also helping State Senator Connie Leyva who is sponsoring a College Readiness bill that will be introduced to the California Legislature. ¡Sí se puede!





COVID-19 ACTION COMMITTEE

For almost a year, the LRT has been part of a weekly coalition made up of local stakeholders and partners, to address the needs of the community during this pandemic. This committee was called together by the City of Pomona. We are very proud of our work at the COVID-19 Action Committee. I admire the consistency and dedication our colleagues demonstrate week after week. Every week, it's a powerful reminder of the influence of networks when we work together. The LRT has focused on two key areas during this pandemic- Basic Needs and Education.

We have learned many lessons during this global pandemic. We witnessed how the pandemic disproportionately impacted our communities- we saw who died, who was testing positive, and who was left without a safety net. It was a painful reminder of the inequity that continues to exist, as well as the much-needed work ahead as we rebuild an economy and create pathways towards opportunity.

As painful as this time has been, it is undeniably a call to action. It is a call to action and a wake-up call that the time to do what's right is always now. No more waiting. Let's strive to do better and work together to transform our communities. As our counties and cities are re-opening and more of our brothers and sisters are getting vaccinated, I don't yearn for things to return to normal. I want us to return with a renewed commitment to real social change. We must fight the structures that uphold white supremacy, income inequality, xenophobia, and misogyny. Things cannot go back to normal- if normal means inequity and lack of opportunity. We want our communities to have access to health and to be able to live with dignity, which includes housing and living wages. Please become a member of the Roundtable. We are having these conversations and are learning together and from each other. We thank you for your support and for believing in our mission.



Director's Message

BY LINA MIRA AND LRT BOARD

Dear Members and Friends,

I am grateful for you. Thank you for supporting our work and for being part of our circle and community. I cannot say how much your support means to us. Thank you for the love that you have shown us. I completed my first year as the Director of the LRT in November 2020. I am still in awe of our presence as an organization during a global pandemic and how quickly we all transitioned to working and organizing virtually. Zoom became a verb and part of our weekly lexicon. The pandemic didn't stop us, we were out there, working and organizing. We thank the Pomona Inland Valley MLK Project for recognizing our efforts at their annual celebration honoring the life of Martin Luther King Jr. We are so honored for this recognition from our brothers and sisters.

I am still processing everything we have lived through and witnessed during these past months, including the loss of family members and friends to COVID. At this moment, more than anything, I hope that you are feeling safe, supported, and taking care of yourself. We have survived a very difficult time that has restimulated some of our deepest wounds and fears. There is a collective pain that will remain with us for a while as a result of the loss and disruption. As we slowly integrate back, prioritize self-care and overall well-being. Seek support and be unapologetic about your mental health. Let's eradicate the stigma that exists around mental health and seeking support. There are many programs and resources that we want people to access- from rental assistance to job placement and training programs. Please call us or visit our website which has information on various resources locally. We thank you again for your support and encouragement. We love you and miss you!

[Lina Mira](#) and LRT Board





The Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley are in support of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, First-District, and local community leaders regarding the use of the Pomona Fairplex as a temporary facility to house unaccompanied minors crossing the U.S. Border. This is a humanitarian crisis that we believe needs to be addressed with compassion and the utmost care and respect and with the wellbeing of the children in mind.

As an organization, the Latino and Latina Roundtable and the board are committed to ensuring that the highest quality of care is provided for these young people and that everything is done to reunite them with their parents and relatives as soon as possible. Our communities are still being impacted by the COVID pandemic. We want to ensure that these unaccompanied minors are not held for long periods of time, since the threat of transmission is still a reality we cannot ignore. We also urge both state and federal funding to support all physical and mental health services needed for the humane treatment of these unaccompanied minors, but also for the purposes of joining them with family members. We want very much for these children to have the right to receive the opportunity to have fair and full consideration of their legal status.

We fully agree with Supervisor Solis's statement that these "unaccompanied minors are escaping gang violence, poverty, persecution, and challenges that no young persons should endure" and we commit ourselves, not only to work on these short-term humane solutions but to work to change the conditions in the long-term – here and abroad -- which are forcing these unaccompanied minors to risk their lives to be here.

We are standing with the decision that Pomona has a strong community where people value the lives of immigrants and want the best for unaccompanied minors who are trying to be reunited with their families.

All immigrants and unaccompanied minors are welcomed to the City of Pomona.

The statements are made by members of the Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley



Latino and Latina Roundtable

of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley

Membership Application/*Solicitud de Membresía*

Annual Member Cost / Costo anual:

\$25.00 for individuals / *para individuos*

\$10.00 for students, retiree's and low-income individuals /
para estudiantes, jubilados y personas de bajos ingresos

Please print neatly / *Por favor escriba claramente y en letra de molde.*

Please check one/*Marque uno:* ☐ New member/*nuevo miembro* ☐ Renew/*Renovar membresía*

Name/*Nombre:* _____ DOB/*Fecha de nacimiento:* _____

Mailing Address/*Dirección postal* _____

City/*Ciudad* _____ Zip Code/*Código postal* _____

Home Phone/*Teléfono de casa* _____ Cell Phone/*Celular* _____

Email Address/*Correo electrónico* _____

The best way of contacting me is/ *La mejor manera de ponerse en contacto conmigo*

Name of Organization/*Nombre de su organización* _____

Title/*Título o cargo* _____

Signature/*Firma* _____

Date/*Fecha* _____

*Please make checks payable to/ *Por favor haga su cheque a nombre de* The Latino/Latina Roundtable

Mail to/ *Enviar a:* The Latino/Latina Roundtable: 1460 E. Holt Ave Mailbox #144, Pomona, CA 91767

Additional Member Information/ Información adicional del miembro:

My interest in being involved with Latino/a Roundtable is/ *Me gustaría participar en el Latino/a Roundtable por:*

____ To be informed about community issues / *Quiero informarme sobre asuntos importantes para la comunidad*

____ To take action on community issues / *Quiero participar activamente en mi comunidad*

____ To financially support work I believe in / *Quiero apoyar económicamente un trabajo positivo*

____ To meet other local activists and organizations/ *Para conocer a otros activistas y grupos comunitarios*

I am interested in being a part of/ *Me interesa formar parte de:*

____ Immigrant Rights Committee / *Comité de Derechos del Inmigrante*

____ Community Development Committee / *Comité sobre Desarrollo Comunitario*