



# The Justice Seeker

Fall 2021

*We are in solidarity with those who struggle.*

## CLUE promotes and encourages local Antiracism work!

CLUE-Ventura County's long-standing commitment to Immigrant Rights has been our path to seeking Racial Justice. More recently, over the last year, we have embraced and encouraged local Antiracism advocacy more broadly in these ways:

- We hosted virtual gatherings for congregations, beginning in Dec. 2020 with "Racial Reconciliation." Moving into 2021, we hosted a gathering about the Antiracism work going on in local congregations to inspire others to pursue this work.
- We co-sponsored "Good Trouble: A Candlelight Vigil for Democracy" in July at the Government Center in Ventura, to highlight pending Voting Rights legislation and to honor the late voting-rights warrior John Lewis. *Photo at right >>*

More "CLUE Antiracism" *Page 2*

## Swap Meet Justice brings immigration legal assistance to the people

Swap Meet Justice is back at the Oxnard College Community Market on the last Sunday of every month! An amazing coalition of immigration professionals and community volunteers is ready to assist immigrants with their questions and their applications for citizenship, DACA and more. *Photo at right >>*

To volunteer, you don't have to  
"Swap Meet Justice" *continues Page 2*



*Edith and Michelle – fighting "immigration consultant" fraud! Article at right >>*



*Father Tom and Cantor Robin at the Candlelight Vigil for Democracy in Ventura*



*Proudly displaying his naturalization certificate – obtained with application help at Swap Meet Justice!*

## CLUE board member wins fellowship to combat "immigration consultant" fraud

Unqualified people who present themselves as immigration experts are a long-standing problem in Ventura County's immigrant communities. Mistakes made by unqualified, self-styled "immigration consultants" (also sometimes called *notarios*) have caused everything from losses of thousands of dollars to deportation when defective applications are rejected.

CLUE Board Member Michelle Carballo Agustin and community leader Edith Antico Carballo recently won a fellowship from the Social Justice Fund of Ventura County that enables them to lead outreach into impacted immigrant communities to educate on the issue, link people to reliable help, and to identify fraud victims who are willing to come forward. The Ventura County District Attorney's Consumer Fraud division is ready to prosecute defrauders who have taken advantage of immigrants. The Notary Fraud Project is under the auspices of CLUE-VC.

In October the Notary Fraud Project kicked off with a Community Resource Fair at El Buen Pastor United Methodist Church in Santa Paula, at which dozens of organizations offered their services to the community. Citizenship application assistance was also offered, courtesy of the Swap Meet Justice coalition, of which CLUE-VC is a member.

Encouraging immigration fraud victims to come forward is challenging. Immigrants who have been defrauded may be embarrassed or fearful. Building trust in the community will take time.

More on "Immigration Fraud" *Page 2*

## Immigrant advocates demand Sheriff cut ties to ICE

On Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> the ICE Out of Ventura County coalition formally presented demands to the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors at the annual TRUTH Act Forum. The coalition's central demand is that the Sheriff's department stop its voluntary assistance to federal immigration enforcement (ICE).

ICE Out of Ventura County is a coalition of more than 20 community orgs, with CLUE volunteers among its leadership. It convened formally in January with the intention of demanding a meaningful response to community concerns.

The advocates maintain that ending all transfers from the Sheriff's custody to ICE is a benefit to our Ventura County community. Here are a few of the reasons:

- **Public safety.** Many studies show that communities that stop cooperating with ICE are safer for all residents, because people are less fearful that reporting a crime to their police will result in their or a loved one's deportation.
  - **No "double punishment."** If not for where they were born, undocumented immigrants released from jail would go home to their families and their work – just like citizens and legal residents. Turning them over to ICE amounts to double punishment.
  - **Keeping families together.** Every ICE detention, every deportation means a family loses a loved one and a breadwinner. Studies show long-lasting harms to children and other family members.
- ➤ More at [www.cluevc.org/archives/1667](http://www.cluevc.org/archives/1667) and [www.iceoutofvc.org/](http://www.iceoutofvc.org/).
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## Immigration Fraud, *continued from Page 1*

"Immigration consultant" fraud can be avoided if the applicant seeks out a qualified immigration attorney or a Department of Justice Accredited Representative found in some community organizations – and at Swap Meet Justice (article in this issue).

- ➤ If you are a Spanish speaker and want to help the Notary Fraud Project with outreach, email Michelle and Edith at [promotorasxjusticia@gmail.com](mailto:promotorasxjusticia@gmail.com).
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## CLUE Antiracism, *continued from Page 1*

- We organized a virtual summer convening that focused on different aspects of Antiracism work, based on participants' interests: Fostering Understanding/ Combatting Bigotry; Criminal Justice; Housing; Immigration; and Voting Rights/Voter Education.
- We co-sponsored and promoted a program organized in September by Chalice/the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Conejo Valley, "Critical Race Theory – What it is and what it isn't" with local educators. Highlights of that event can be found at [www.cluevc.org/archives/1703](http://www.cluevc.org/archives/1703).
- CLUE offered a unique perspective during Public Comment at October's TRUTH Act Forum, which dealt with the transfer of immigrants in the Sheriff's custody to ICE. CLUE shared experiences visiting African immigrants detained at the Adelanto facility, who were subsequently deported back to dangerous situations in their home countries. A brief recount of those Adelanto visitation experiences is at [www.cluevc.org/archives/1696](http://www.cluevc.org/archives/1696).
- We promoted a program organized in October by the Mount Cross Lutheran Church (Camarillo) Peace and Justice Team on "Ventura County's Incarcerated Youth" with speakers from local youth-serving organizations.
- We continue to share selected opportunities – local and nationwide online – to strengthen our "aspiring Antiracists." For example, we promote workshops from [www.MyWorkToDo.com](http://www.MyWorkToDo.com), an affinity group for White people pursuing Antiracism.

As we each confront our own biases and the societal racism that many of us have benefitted from, it's good to support each other and find ways forward – together.

- ➤ If you have Antiracism work you would like others to know about, contact us at [www.cluevc.org/contact-clue-vc/](http://www.cluevc.org/contact-clue-vc/)
- ➤ If you are not receiving our occasional emails (only when an event is happening), sign up at [www.cluevc.org/stay-informed/](http://www.cluevc.org/stay-informed/)
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## Swap Meet Justice, *continued from Page 1*

Speak Spanish, though it helps. You don't have to be a citizen or an adult to help out – teens are welcome! Facemasks are required; clear windows separate applicants from helpers for extra safety.

- ➤ More information for volunteers at [www.indivisibleventura.org/free-citizenship-daca-fairs-volunteers-needed/](http://www.indivisibleventura.org/free-citizenship-daca-fairs-volunteers-needed/)
- ➤ Can't volunteer but want to help? DONATE at [www.migrantadvocacyfund.org/](http://www.migrantadvocacyfund.org/).
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