

# Tiempos de Berkeley

## Quando hace falta información sobre naturalization

FOR JESSICA SOLIS

TRADUCIDO AL ESPAÑOL: JOSUÉ REVOLUORIO

La comunidad Latina ha enfrentado muchas barreras en sus intentos de regularizar su condición legal en los Estados Unidos. Su viaje hacia los EE.UU no termina en la frontera, ese es solo el comienzo; más bien pasa el resto de su vida buscando información, legalizar su situación y, finalmente, obtener su ciudadanía.

Guadalupe(\*), mexicana de 56 años de edad, ha vivido en Estados Unidos por más de 35 años. Guadalupe estaba consciente de calificar para obtener la ciudadanía, pero nunca la solicitó porque no hablaba inglés fluidamente. Ignorando la excepción al idioma, Guadalupe pasó años tomando clases de inglés con la esperanza de convertirse algún día en ciudadana estadounidense. Desafortunadamente, su horario de trabajo no le permitía tener suficiente tiempo libre para sumergirse en el idioma, así que renunció a la posibilidad de convertirse en ciudadana. Un domingo por la tarde encontró un volante para el Curso de Naturalización del Instituto Multicultural (MI) y se enteró de que existía una excepción al requisito del inglés. Durante el Curso de Ciudadanía en MI, se le ayudó a llenar la solicitud, mientras reunía la información y los documentos necesarios. Ella envió su solicitud de naturalización y actualmente está esperando a que le prometan una entrevista.

## When information is lacking about naturalization

BY JESSICA SOLIS

The Latino community has faced many barriers in their attempts to gain legal status in the United States. Their journey to the U.S. doesn't end at the border. That is just the beginning. Rather they spend the rest of their lives seeking information, legal status, and eventually, citizenship.

Guadalupe(\*), a 56-year old Mexican woman, has lived in the United States for more than 35 years. Guadalupe was aware that she was eligible for citizenship but never applied because she was not fluent in English. Unaware of the exception to the English language, Guadalupe spent years taking English language courses hoping to one day become a U.S. citizen. Unfortunately, her busy work schedule did not allow her enough free time to immerse herself in the language so she gave up on becoming a citizen. One Sunday afternoon she found a flyer for the Multicultural Institute (MI) Naturalization Course and learned that there was an exception to the English language component. During the Naturalization Course with MI, she was

walked through the entire application as she gathered the information and documents she needed. She has submitted her naturalization application and is currently waiting for her interview to be scheduled.

MI's Naturalization course is taught completely in Spanish covering U.S. civics and history.

Each participating student is accompanied through the entire naturalization process. In each course there is a cohort of 10-15 individuals, of 50 years of age or older. To conclude the course MI brings attendees on board to screen individuals for any red flags, and explain why some of their answers may receive special attention during the citizenship interview.

The Multicultural Institute is dedicated to helping immigrants become naturalized U.S. citizens and to community education, after all lack of information is the biggest obstacle to naturalization.

(\* ) *Fictitious name to protect this person's identity and right to privacy.*

## Health Fair at La Placita — Sunday, Oct. 15

As part of Celebrando Comunidad en la Placita, a celebration of Berkeley's Latin culture to be held in Civic Center Park on Sunday, October 15 from noon — 4 p.m., the Multicultural Institute of West Berkeley announced that it will be hosting a Health Fair with