
Chase Trump Back to New York

California is a community of diversity

By **Kat Avila** | Published on LatinoLA: May 2, 2016



"Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere."
from Elie Wiesel's NIGHT

When I glanced at the evening news late Thursday, April 28 2016 that Trump had brought his hate rhetoric and his Secret Service guys to Costa Mesa, my insides curdled. I almost hurled when I read that backyard Rancho Santa Margarita mayor Tony Beall had been at Trump's rally to score points with South County racists. If I had known earlier, I would have been there alongside the anti-Trump protesters venting my anger.

How dare "Drumpf" Trump show up in Cesar Chavez's California with his anti-Mexican, anti-immigrant hate? How dare that New York bully rally the local haters and bring back some very ugly memories? How dare he come here with his willful ignorance of our state's history and its peoples?

The city east of Costa Mesa is Irvine whose current street banners proclaim it a "Community of Diversity." Irvine has had the FBI distinction of the Safest Big City in America for 10 years in a row (2004-2013). It has large immigrant populations of professional and highly educated Persians, Koreans, and Chinese.

Many of the Persians are Muslim. I have worked beside them in Irvine's tech sector. Some of them have been my students in my English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. As a whole, half of all Persians in the states are here in California.

North of Costa Mesa is the County Seat of Santa Ana. Santa Ana is a Mexican-majority town in a state that holds 30 percent of the total Latino population in the nation. In the 1970s, white flight was apparent. Maybe some of them were scared off to Costa Mesa.

Little Saigon lies northwest of Costa Mesa. It is known as the cultural capital for Vietnamese expats. I remember the first refugees arriving in California after the Fall of Saigon, which was 40 years ago today on April 30, 1975. Local Vietnamese have traditionally voted Republican, but there is a notable trend of native-born Vietnamese becoming politically centrist and voting Democratic.

The California Presidential Primary is coming up on June 7, 2016. In anticipation of that, every California city should follow Irvine's lead and declare itself a "Community of Diversity." Let's dump Trump in a colossal heap of antiquated junk where he belongs!

Kat just finished reading Elie Wiesel's NIGHT about the Jewish Holocaust and is almost halfway through T. C. Boyle's THE TORTILLA CURTAIN.

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