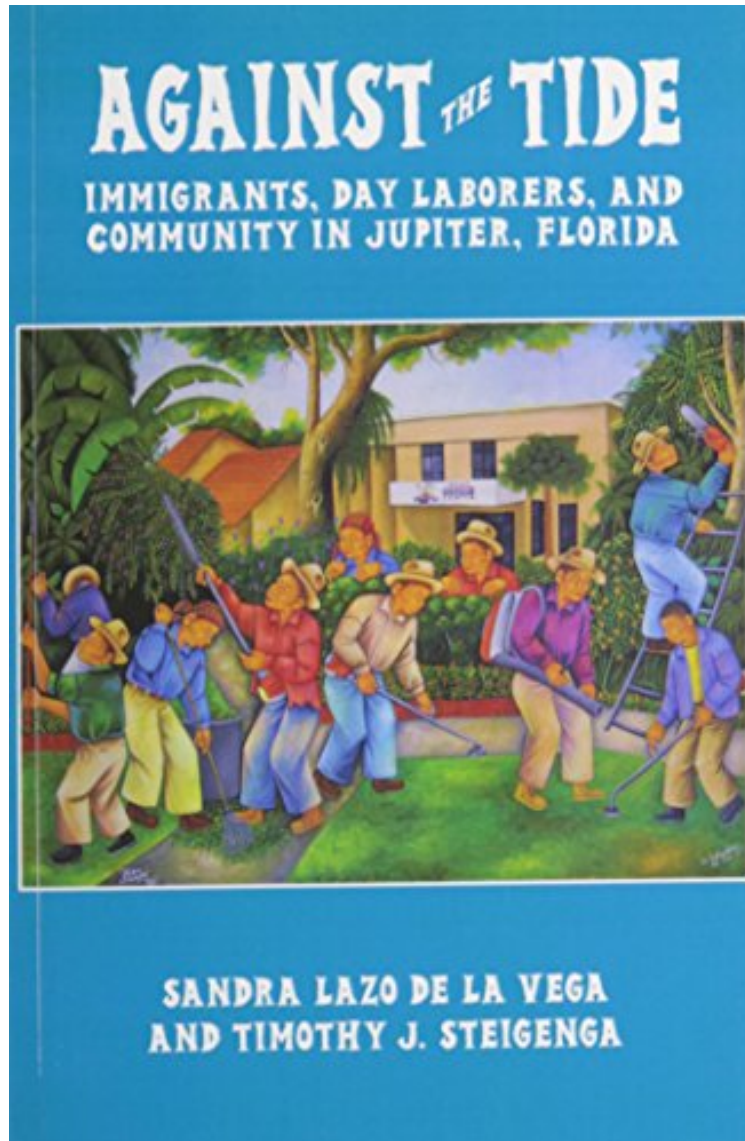


(Ebook free) Against the Tide: Immigrants, Day Laborers, and Community in Jupiter, Florida

Against the Tide: Immigrants, Day Laborers, and Community in Jupiter, Florida

Sandra Lazo de la Vega, Timothy J. Steigenga
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Sandra Lazo de la Vega, Timothy J. Steigenga : Against the Tide: Immigrants, Day Laborers, and Community in Jupiter, Florida before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Against the Tide: Immigrants, Day Laborers, and Community in Jupiter, Florida:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Solving Immigrant problems humanelyBy Sam SlossAgainst the Tide: Immigrant Laborers, and Community in Jupiter, Florida by Sandra Lazo de la Vega and Timothy J.

Steigenga. This is an uplifting story of how liberals and conservatives joined forces to humanly address immigrant issues in a Florida community. By avoiding the political bumper sticker politics of our do nothing Congress, Jupiter, Florida was able to solve immigrant problems faced by many American cities. The El Sol center matches employer needs with employee skills. Day workers no longer hang out on street corners. Violent crime is down. Crimes against immigrants, like cheating them out of wages, are down. Jupiter immigrants get vaccinations and preventive health care. They learn English at a faster rate than immigrants in other communities. Unlike liberal communities that declared themselves sanctuary cities or right wing communities that pass extreme anti-immigrant laws, Jupiter has taken a common sense approach to manage the actual day-to-day issues of their immigrant population. In doing so, Jupiter has avoided the million dollar lawsuits other cities have suffered defending unconstitutional lawsuits. Nor has Jupiter's local economy collapsed when immigrants are driven away. Racism and anti-immigrant fears still exist in Jupiter. But cooperation and trust between long term residents and recent immigrants is much improved compared to a decade ago and far better than in communities that allowed national politics to spread hate and interfere with solving local every day problems. While this book is primarily a case study, it also gives the reader some insight into larger macro immigration issues. Why immigrants risk great peril to come here is told in the story of cousins Ulises and Jos. While border patrols are designed to keep undocumented immigrants out, they also prevent immigrants from returning home. *Against the Tide* addresses stereotypes and myths. Immigrants commit less, not more, crime than natural born citizens. More often they are victims of crimes by employers and others who see them as easy targets. Not only does their work help our American economy, but their strong family ties and practice of sending money back home also improve the economies of their homeland. Jupiter's success did not come quickly or easily. Churches, community groups, schools, police, and liberals and conservatives had to learn how to work together and trust each other. But *Against the Tide* gives us a blueprint for how other communities might deal with immigrants in a humane and positive manner. In a recent visit to Jupiter, I was able to tour the El Sol center with coauthor, Sandra Lazo de la Vega as my guide. And in full disclosure, my nephew is in a relationship with the coauthor. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *A Story of Hope* By Gayle This is a fine example of how one community turned a terrible situation into a plus for the community. El Sol should be franchised all over the country because it would help to put the immigrants, who live in the shadows in communities all over our country, to become part of the community. The illegal immigrants at El Sol volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity, building houses for others in the community. They have come to the US for the same reasons all our ancestors came here, for a better life, opportunity, hard work. Town boards across the country should read this book to see how Jupiter has succeeded. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Terrific book!* By Sue Chance I read this when I started as a volunteer at El Sol. It was so nice to learn the history of the place, which does such excellent things for the immigrant community. It's become a model of "how-to-do-it" for similar programs. If you read this, check out El Sol's Facebook page. It gives a run down of current programs like a healthy eating cooking class for kids, a community garden, sewing and computer training. The list goes on and on.

Across the United States, the issue of immigration has generated rancorous debate and divided communities. Many states and municipalities have passed restrictive legislation specifically designed to create a hostile climate for immigrants. *Against the Tide* tells the story of Jupiter, Florida, a coastal town of approximately 50,000 that has taken a different path. In the early 2000s, Jupiter was deeply involved in immigration debates. In the preceding years, this small town had experienced an influx of migrants from Mexico and Guatemala. Immigrants seeking work gathered daily on one of the city's main streets, creating an open-air labor market that generated complaints and health and human safety concerns. What began as a local issue rapidly escalated as Jupiter's situation was thrust into the media spotlight and attracted the attention of state and national anti-immigrant groups. But then something unexpected happened: immigrants, neighborhood residents, university faculty and students, and town representatives joined together to mediate community tensions and successfully moved the informal labor market to the new El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center. The book tells their stories providing an insider's view into how the events unfolded. The central argument of *Against the Tide* is that Centers like El Sol can address many of the fundamental fears that polarize and stymie both local policy debates and the larger issue of immigration reform.

Civic leaders and scholars interested in the overlapping issues of economic development, immigrant integration, and public planning will find in *Against the Tide* a treasure trove of insights and case studies. Paul Ortiz, University of Florida The authors convey the importance of recognizing immigrants as human beings and citizens of the local society, even if not legal residents or citizens. *Against the Tide* could play an important and critical role in the ongoing policy struggles over immigrants. Alex Stepick, coeditor of *Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City* About the Author Sandra Lazo de la Vega is a Research Associate at the University of Florida's Project for Religion, Immigration and Social Change. Timothy J. Steigenga is professor of political science and chair of the social sciences and humanities at the Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University. He is coauthor of *Living "Illegal": The*

Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration.