



Major El Super March Monday and a Staff Departure: CLUE's News

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Fri, Jul 14, 2017 at 4:07 PM



Clergy & Laity United For Economic Justice

Dear Elizabeth,

Join us for this important action on Monday:
El Super March for Respect, Dignity, and a Voice on the Job!

**MARCH FOR
RESPECT,
DIGNITY+
A VOICE ON THE JOB
APRIL 4TH 2016 10:30AM
COINCIDING WITH CHEDRAUI (EL SUPER) ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING**

STARTING POINT
Mary M. Bethune Park
(near El Super #13)
1244 E 61st St, Los Angeles, CA 90001

END POINT
El Super
7000 S Alameda St
Huntington Park, CA 90255

UFCW Jean Tong 213-201-7123 boycottsuper.org facebook.com/justiceforelsuperworkers

For years, CLUE leaders have prayed, marched, delegated, and even been arrested alongside workers and other community members at El Super grocery stores, demanding respect from one of Mexico's richest corporations (Chedraui) that refuses to acknowledge the humanity of the very workers who make their markets exceedingly profitable. Seven of these stores--former Gigante supermarkets acquired by El Super--have are represented by United Food and Commercial Workers, and yet despite several rulings by the National Labor Relations Board in favor of the workers, and in spite of workers overwhelmingly recertifying the union (three to one!), the company refuses to bargain in good faith, leaving workers without a contract for over two years. And of course, the other 43 stores in California have no contract at all.

El Super workers are alleging that they are paid poverty wages, are not given adequate paid sick days, do not have seniority rights, are not guaranteed 40-hour work weeks, and face fierce intimidation in the workplace. Despite El Super's union-busting efforts, such as its "Vote No" campaign which included captive-audience meetings conducted by

El Super's own CEO Carlos A. Smith, El Super workers still overwhelmingly voted to re-certify their union. Despite its workers and communities' efforts, as well as the intervention of a federal judge, to pressure the corporation into treating its workers with dignity and respect, El Super still refuses to come to the bargaining table. Thus, with the full endorsement of the California Labor Federation and Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, **a consumer boycott of El Super markets was born.**

The boycotts have engaged countless community members in the fight against El Super and has been successful in hurting El Super where it hurts—its profits.

This coming Monday, April 4, coincides with the Chedraui (El Super) Annual Shareholders Meeting, and this offers us a unique opportunity: We will broadcast far and wide the deplorable actions and inactions of El Super on Monday, to make it clear to El Super investors that workers demand respect and dignity!

We need you to march with El Super workers!

Join us! Let this corporation know that it is time to pay it forward. El Super cannot continue treating its own employees in such dehumanizing ways. El Super cannot continue providing communities with substandard and potentially dangerous goods. El Super workers need justice. El Super workers deserve these basic workers rights and communities deserve better quality products.

Please stand with El Super workers, CLUE, and fellow community members:

- Monday, April 4, starting at 10:30 a.m,
- March together from a unionized El Super store to a non-unionized El Super store for a better El Super.
- March begins at Mary Bethune Park: 1244 E 61st St, Los Angeles
- March ends at El Super: 7000 S Alameda St, Huntington Park, 90255
- Click [here](#) for more information on the Facebook events page.

FAREWELL TO NINA FERNANDO, FAITH-ROOTED ORGANIZER

Our dear colleague, Nina Fernando, is leaving her post as a Faith-Rooted Organizer in Long Beach and South Bay, where she has served for years. She shared the following with us:

Dearest Friends,

I am humbled by my many years of being challenged, learning, and growing on the wings of CLUE and being in relationship with incredible and organizers. (I especially love and adore my coworkers)!

It has been an honor to be a part of this organization and grow throughout the years from serving as an intern in 2009 and 2010 through the Ziegler Young Religious Leaders Fellowship, to being a supporter and volunteer during my time as a student in college and seminary, and eventually to joining staff as Faith-Rooted Organizer.

I have evolved from working closely alongside the Clean and Safe Ports movement in 2009, to Immigration Reform in the summer of 2010, the historic OUR Walmart campaign, to the policies to Raise the Wage Los Angeles and Long Beach, the Stand With Women Against Abuse campaign and policy to protect hotel workers, as well as supporting direct organizing with hospitality workers and port truck drivers, to coordinating our CLUE Long Beach and South Bay Committee, and the many moving pieces of our CLUE

work.

I have now come to a point on my journey where I feel I must expand and explore new experiences and after much thought and discernment, I have decided to resign from my position as CLUE Faith-Rooted Organizer for the Long Beach and South Bay area.

I know that I will take what I've learned from you and CLUE out into the world and no matter where my path takes me, I will be a life-long supporter of CLUE's values and vision. Mostly, I hope that I may continue to be in relationship with all of you.

With love and gratitude,

~nina

Nina leaves us having utilized her extraordinary talents and her broad vision for justice to help so many workers and community members to stand with dignity in their struggle for economic, racial, and other forms of justice. She and her fiancé Noel Anderson are on their way to new adventures, new opportunities, and while we are sad that she is leaving us, we know that she will bring her gifts to others as she ventures forth.

Nina began with CLUE roughly when I began at CLUE, at first as a Young Religious Leadership Fellow, I believe brought to us by Interfaith Worker Justice in 2009. After that initial foray into CLUE, Nina left us to attend Claremont School of Theology, but over the years of intermittent engagement with CLUE, by August 2013 she came to us to serve as a Faith-Rooted Organizer. Her work in Long Beach and San Pedro has inspired so many religious leaders to get involved in the holy work of pursuing justice, especially for hotel workers and port truck drivers, both groups with important campaigns that have seen significant successes in recent years. Nina leaves having just helped lift Long Beach wages on a pathway to \$15/hr, and her coalition work with local groups, especially in Long Beach as embodied at the recent Long Beach People's State of the City event, has also made CLUE a key voice in the justice ecosystem in the region. Nina's work will be sorely missed by our many friends and allies in the community.

Nina's talents are far beyond faith-rooted organizing. We have seen her vocal performance work and her artistic flair in music has left indelible marks on our organization, our organizing, our vision of building a just and sacred society. From her song for farmworker Agustin Gudino (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPQFm1Fmrl4>) as a CLUE intern to her serenading our community at Giants of Justice or at last year's InGathering, Nina is an artist, an embodiment of the CLUE spirit, which seeks "poetic justice" rather than crass victories.

As Executive Director, I want to pause and say "Thank You" for your service, Nina. We will miss you!



UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENT DATES

- **March 31st (TOMORROW) - Black/Jewish Justice Alliance Meeting:** Please contact [Robert](#) for more information.
- **April 5th (Tuesday) - San Fernando Valley Meeting:** Please contact [Bridie](#) for more information.
- **April 7th (Thursday) - LAX-Inglewood Committee Meeting:** Please contact [Guillermo](#) for more information.
- **April 7th (Thursday) - Santa Monica Committee Meeting:** Please contact [Gabriella](#) for more information.
- **April 14th (Thursday) - Fight for 15 Action** (more information coming soon).
- **April 21st (Thursday) - Pasadena Committee Meeting:** Please contact [Rabbi Klein](#) for more information
- **THURSDAY, MAY 26TH: GIANTS OF JUSTICE AND TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!** See [our webpage](#) for event and ticket information.



Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE
<http://www.cluejustice.org/>