

New Immigrant Community Empowerment

2011 Gala

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

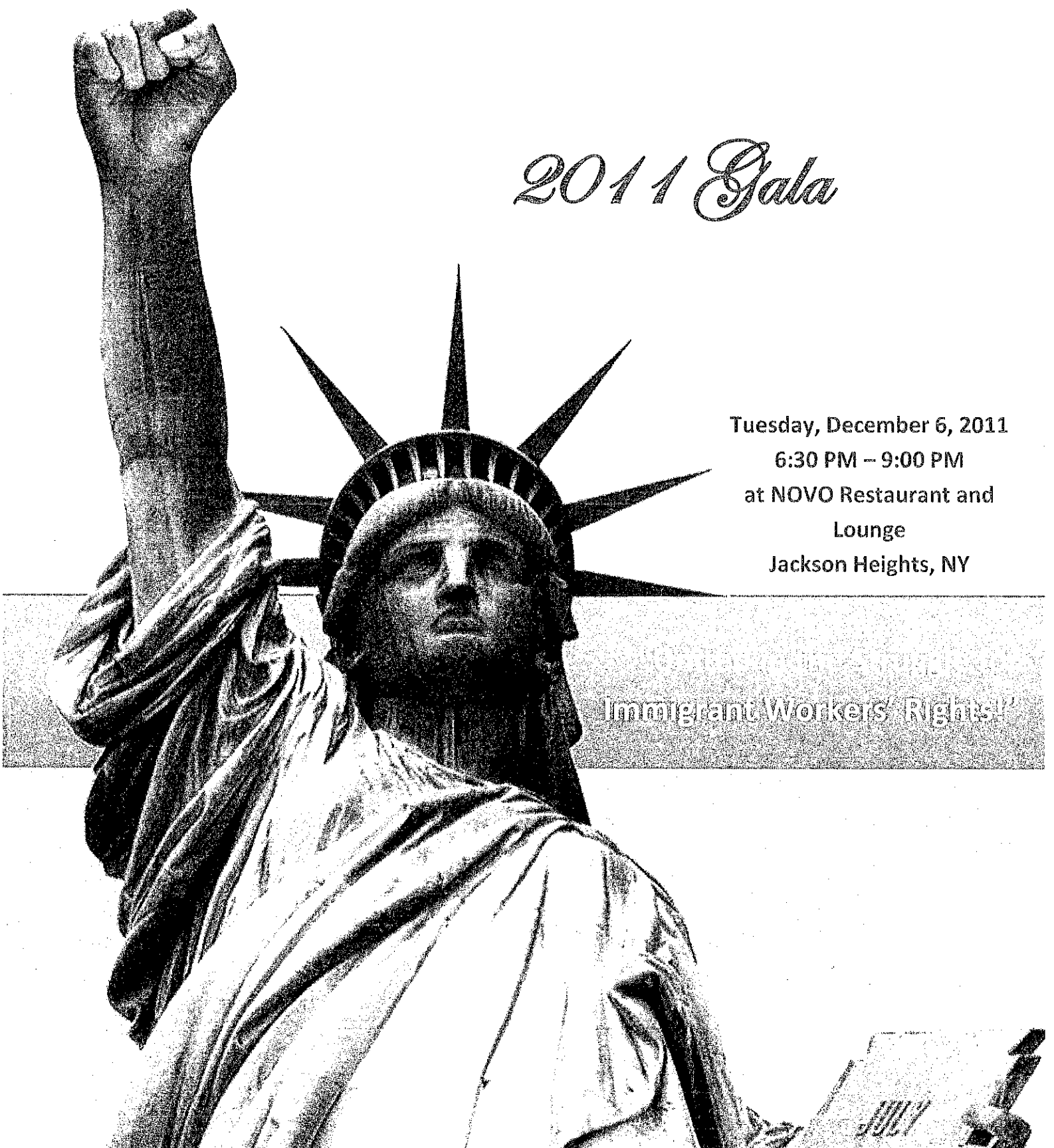
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

at NOVO Restaurant and

Lounge

Jackson Heights, NY

Immigrant Workers' Rights!



December 6th, 2011

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2011 Gala Celebration: "United in the Struggle for Immigrant Workers' Rights!" Tonight, with allies and supporters, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE) celebrates another year of building the strength and power of immigrant workers. We thank you for joining us and for your ongoing support!

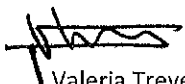
NICE's worker organizing has grown dramatically over the last year and continues to gain strength. Our robust *Comite de Trabajadores*, led by a solid core of worker leaders and an ever increasing base of participants, has made incredible gains in fighting unpaid wages and in outreach amongst the most marginalized and vulnerable workers in our community. Workers are speaking out, learning their rights, fighting unscrupulous employers, and organizing for basic rights and better conditions. Through coalition work, we have pushed back against harmful measures, such as Secure Communities at the state level, and against the introduction of a measure that would mandate E-Verify at the federal level. Furthermore, in light of legislation for improved worker protections at the state level, we are engaging in grassroots advocacy to ensure these bills are enforced.

This year, the Occupy Wall Street Movement has brought new energy to progressive causes. NICE has joined the Immigrant Worker Solidarity Working Group of Occupy Wall Street and has been educating others about the conditions faced by immigrant workers, engaging in marches and teach-ins. It was inspiring for us to see the community that formed at Liberty Plaza (aka Zuccotti Park). There, no matter who you are, how long you had been there, or how long you planned to stay, *everyone* made decisions about and was responsible for the park and its encampment. This year, NICE worked in partnership with New York Civic Participation Project (NYCPP) to secure funding for interpretation services at Community Board 3 meetings. This is the first Community Board in Queens and only the second one in the whole city where interpretation services will be available thus facilitating immigrant access to these important civic meetings. Just like at Liberty Plaza, we also agree that no matter where you come from or how long you plan to stay, full participation makes for a richer and stronger community.

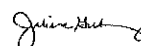
At tonight's Gala, we have the pleasure of congratulating four outstanding honorees doing work on behalf of the 99%! **Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas**, was recently appointed as Executive Director of the Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, and is also a noted local community leader, including many years of service on the NICE board. **Tom Finkelpearl**, Director of the Queens Museum of Art, has transformed that organization through outreach and programming tailored to immigrant communities. Aiding in our fight against unscrupulous employers, **Virginia and Ambinder LLP**, has lent pro-bono services to NICE and many sister organizations to ensure immigrant workers get paid their fair wages. And finally, we are honoring eight of NICE's member leaders, namely the **Promotores de la Campaña de Justicia al Consumidor Inmigrante**, who have recently completed the research phase of a participatory research project on the substandard, fraudulent, and abusive practices of employment agencies and businesses providing immigration services in our community.

Again, thank you for joining us tonight and for your ongoing support of NICE in the struggle for immigrant workers' rights. Remember, to carry forth our message, we count on you as part of the "peoples' mic"!

Sincerely,



Valeria Treves
Executive Director



Julissa Gutierrez
Board Chair