



Schedule & Logistics

Choose from one of these registration options:

Option 1: Register as an individual*

Option 2: Register as a group from the same organization*

*See website for details

Dates & Times:

Upcoming dates are available on our website.

Location: Episcopal Church of the Apostles, Oro Valley, AZ ***Includes an afternoon trip to Casa Alitas Welcome Center in Tucson, AZ*

Registration Cost: \$295 Plus \$60 for lunch* (Includes cost of program, all materials, light refreshments, and transportation to and from Casa Alitas) **Note: Registration fee is non-refundable.*

Lodging: There are many hotel and Airbnb options available. Please visit the website for a full list of options.

Transportation: Please plan for your transportation to and from the airport (if flying), as well as daily transportation to and from Episcopal Church of the Apostles. Visit our website for a list of transportation options.

Tucson: A list of things to do and see in Tucson is available on our website.

Register at:

leavinghomeretreat.com/register

"In 'Through the Eyes of Children', creators Gale and Mick brought this heartrending and complicated issue to a very personal level - where activities put us at least as much as possible into the hearts and shoes of children immigrants, exposing the many layers of their physical and emotional trauma both in coming to and being accepted by our country.

*The artwork of the children, videos, testimonials and yes, in some, their memorials are both **deeply moving and inspirational**. Buttressed by well-sourced informational experts and data, I appreciated how much the retreat gave us a 360 degree view into the situations these children face.*

*At some point, I realized just how much we 'assume' about things — and how many layers there are in getting to a deeper understanding. That understanding was truly motivational for me, and **I will be acting upon the learning I received from this experience**. Thank you for all your incredible work, Gale and Mick."*

- Jan Rowe 5/18/22



SCAN HERE FOR WEBSITE & REGISTRATION



Contact & Info

If you have any questions about our ongoing retreat events or anything else, please email:

leavinghomeretreat@gmail.com

Visit our website:

leavinghomeretreat.com



LEAVING HOME:

Immigration through the eyes of children

A DESERT RETREAT EXPERIENCE



Sign up & register:
leavinghomeretreat.com

An Interactive Retreat Experience

Episcopal Church of the Apostles
Oro Valley, AZ

Ongoing dates throughout the year
Available for groups and individuals

About the retreat

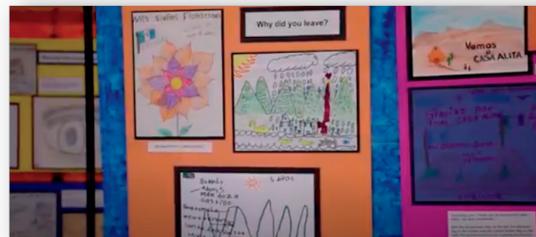
Leaving Home: Immigration Through the Eyes of Children, a retreat hosted at Episcopal Church of the Apostles in Oro Valley, Arizona, is focused on the impact of migration on children and families and the ways in which we are called to welcome and engage community action.

“What would it take for you to leave your home and your country? What would you bring with you? How would the trauma of leaving home, navigating the immigration system, and starting over again in a new country impact your health and your future? What would it take for you to find a sense of belonging? How do you hope you’d be welcomed? These are some of the questions we will explore together as we immerse ourselves in the experiences of those who have been forced to flee their homes and cross a border,” said Gale Hall, one of the co-creators of the retreat.



During the three-day retreat, participants will examine the artwork and poems created at the Casa Alitas Welcome Center in Tucson by children legally seeking asylum in the United States. Through this creative telling of their stories, carefully crafted individual and group activities, and volunteering at Casa Alitas, participants will develop an understanding of the journeys of these children and families and the faith and hope that sustains them. When they return home, participants will be empowered to create an action plan in their own communities inspired by the experience with the support of the retreat facilitators.

“Our intent for the retreat is that attendees experience ‘walking in the shoes’ of families who migrate; so that they gain empathy and understanding and advocate for these children and their parents” said Michelina Nicotera-Taxiera, co-creator of the retreat.



About the creators



Gale Hall is a retired early childhood professional (MA, ECE – Fairfield University) who recently moved from NH to southern AZ. During her career she worked on state and national early childhood and family literacy initiatives and advocated for young children, families, and their teachers.

She ended her career as a professor of Early Childhood training students to be future teachers. Upon moving to AZ, she began making quilts for newly immigrated children at Casa Alitas in Tucson, AZ. There she became involved with the Art of Asylum exhibit featuring the artwork of children, most of whom had immigrated from Central America in 2019.

“The artwork of children immigrating to the US has found me and transformed me. I was moved to develop an interactive curriculum that helps to immerse and engage participants in the authentic stories being told in that art. As I see myself in their stories, I realize that this could easily have been me. I hope that participants will ask – Now that I know, what can I do? I hope the experience helps to bridge our humanity and make us better people.”



Michelina Nicotera-Taxiera moved to Tucson, Arizona in 2017. She has a BFA in Illustration from Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in Denver and has taught art to both children and adults.

She became involved with border issues after seeing news reports of children separated from their families and abandoned in detention center cages. Initially she felt helpless; but became convinced that she had to “do something”. In response she began working on a series of drawings depicting the struggles of asylum seekers. These initial drawings became the Way of Asylum which is a modern day Stations of the Cross showing the journey of migrant families. Since 2020 this website has been viewed by people all over the U.S. and the world. She has also had the privilege of creating posters, banners and art for a bi-national asylum advocacy group called Save Asylum. <https://www.saveasylum.org/>

“I see my art as part of a quest to work for change in the world. I hope it lifts up the stories of asylum seekers and compels people to see that they are just like us, full of beauty, hope and resilience.”

Since 2019 she has volunteered at the migrant welcome center, Casa Alitas, coordinating their children's art activity kits. For the last year she and Gale have collaborated on Gale's curriculum for the Leaving Home retreat.