

Refuge + Dignity + Pride + Hope



Sharfman

We will know when our immigration policies are working:

When we can speak openly and honestly about our concerns and the intent is to work for the common good.

When legal and political decisions are made without bigotry and racism at their root; when they are not extreme, but made with understanding and compassion; when the rights of some are not secured by denial of rights to others.

When husbands and wives and children can hug each other good night because

families have been united.

When we can sleep at night because our borders are secure.

When the immigrant community and law enforcement cooperate with one another.

When the fear factor has been eliminated because ugly underbelly immigration issues such as sex trafficking, gender exploitation and human slavery facing immigrants have been brought out into the open and addressed.

When there is a reasonable and attainable pathway to citizenship.

When accommodations have been made for temporary workers.

When we have a functioning acculturation process that includes understanding the responsibilities as well as the privileges of citizenship.

When the root causes of the immigration are being addressed.

When people are treated fairly, both those who seek to enter as well as those already here.

When we can support our families with integrity.

When we experience a palpable sense of dignity, pride and hope.

Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman
*Congregation Kehillah, and Member of
 The Real Arizona Coalition*

How do we know when it is working?



Chernow

We will know that immigration reform is working when we develop a reasonable and responsible system for all those who are "yearning to breathe free." What Emma Lazarus articulated in her poem that accompanies the Statue of Liberty is that the U.S. is the home of possibility and hope. We need to create greater opportunity for those who dream of better lives for themselves and their families. Yet, change must come in a way that honors and protects the rights of all those who are currently U.S. citizens. Immigration reform is possible and will surely benefit our entire society.

Mari Chernow
Temple Chai Senior Rabbi