

## LESLIE P. SALGADO-TAMAYO – PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Leslie was born in Ecuador, South America. She emigrated to the United States in 1969 to her last year of high school. She then went on to get a bachelor's and master's degrees in Civil Engineering at the University of Maryland in College Park. After working in her field, 14 years as a bridge designer and 19 in the field of facilities engineering for public transportation, she retired in the summer of 2016.

When Leslie arrived in the US, she was non-socially-conscious. But soon thereafter, she started developing an awareness for social justice watching the news about the US war in Viet Nam. She could not understand how in the name of democracy, the US government could cause such atrocities and so much suffering to people in faraway lands. Her curiosity led her to the writings of progressive and revolutionaries around the world such as Karl Marx, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Paulo Freire, Margaret Meade, Martin Luther King, Jr., Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, etc. This led her to believe that the only way to make this world a better place was to devote a part of her life working for social justice. She firmly believes that our future is in our hands and that our actions can make a difference.

Throughout most of her adult life, she has been an active advocate and participant of the peace and justice movement in the US. But, since the early 80's, she has worked more exclusively in solidarity with the people of Latin America. She is a co-founder of Howard County Friends of Latin America which turned 30 years in 2016. She is also an active member of the *Baltimore-Matanzas (Cuba) Association*, a group that is mostly active in Baltimore. She also volunteers with the Committee for Palestinian Rights and other human rights and social justice organizations.

Leslie is passionate about helping build a world where conflicts are resolved without resorting to war and where everyone regardless of race, religion, political persuasion, sexual orientation or age is treated with respect and dignity.

Now that Leslie is retired, she wants to devote most of her time to organizing for social justice and for peace. Because of the backlash against new immigrants, Leslie wants to be more active organizing educational events that would help them understand their rights.

Leslie is married to a Marylander and has two grown children who were also born in Maryland. She and her husband have resided in the community of Owen Brown, Columbia since 1986.

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