

Forum on immigration held at the Shrine of St. Joseph in Stirling

by Somerset Reporter

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STIRLING -- "Immigration and the American Dream," a forum sponsored by the Watchung Hills Clergy Association, will be held from 4-6 p.m., on Sunday, March 8 at the Shrine of St. Joseph in Stirling.

The forum will feature a panel made up of persons of a variety of perspectives from among our political, religious and community leaders.

The forum speaks to the reality that realizing the American Dream is a challenge for people on different sides of this issue.

From the foundation of our country, people have immigrated here to fulfill their dream of bettering life for themselves and for their family; and yet many lifelong citizens have struggled to find adequate jobs to realize their dreams.

These citizens can sometimes view immigrants, especially illegal immigrants, as wrongfully taking their opportunities.

Are there "win-win" solutions to this dilemma? Discovering the answer to that will be just part of our challenge together.

Persons invited to participate include: Senator Robert Menendez; Rep. Leonard Lance; Rep. Rod Frelinghuysen; U.S. Attorney Chris Christy; Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs of Plainfield; Shai Goldstein of the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network and Silvia Hernandez of El Centro Hispanoamericano.

Each panel member will speak to the subject for a few minutes, followed by a question and answer session.

The second hour of the program will be set aside for discussion in interest areas such as legislative issues, jobs, reaching across cultural barriers and assisting people in need.

For more information call Rev. Keith Madsen of Wilson Memorial Union Church, 908.755.5020, Cantor Anna Berman of Temple Har Shalom in Warren, 732.356.8777, or Rev. Tom Peters of First Presbyterian Church of Stirling 908.647.1033.