



# Center for New Americans

A Community-Based Education and Resource Center for  
Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts

*Welcoming & Serving Immigrants since 1992*

## *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts!*



**May 19, 2024, 7:00 PM**



# Center for New Americans

A Community-Based Education and Resource Center for Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts

Center for New Americans provides immigrant adults with free classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Classes are offered in Amherst, Greenfield, Northampton, and Springfield (Springfield classes are for refugees and parolees resettled by Catholic Charities Agency).

Classes take place mornings and evenings, in person, and online. Instruction includes civics, digital literacy, employment preparation, and navigating U.S. systems.


Center for New Americans also offers immigration legal services including citizenship application assistance and preparation, and assistance with such humanitarian services as Temporary Protected Status and asylum.

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*Congratulations and welcome to all those taking the oath of citizenship. The United States is stronger today because of you. Heartfelt thanks to all the staff and volunteers at Center for New Americans.*

- Senator Jo Comerford



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# Center for New Americans

A Community-Based Education and Resource Center for Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts

Center for New Americans students and clients come from 36 countries. They are determined, persistent, creative, and resilient.

This event celebrates artistic and cultural traditions from around the world.

*“Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life.”*

— JOHN F. KENNEDY



**Thank you for inspiring us!**

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# Center for New Americans

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## PERFORMANCES

**Biani Salas**, Venezuela, Host  
**Jean Ronaldo Loccident**, Haiti, Host

**Christine Mirabal**, Dominican Republic  
Reading her poem, "No apologies"

**Kate Shvets**, Belarus  
Singing "Lyavónikha"

**Grace Thapa**, Nepal  
Dancing to "Ghintang Ghintag"

**Maria Cristina Agudelo**, Colombia  
Reading her poem "We Are All Immigrants"



# Mass General Brigham Cooley Dickinson Hospital



"Congratulations to our new citizens and a special thank you to all the staff and volunteers at CNA."

Congressman  
Jim McGovern





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## PERFORMANCES (cont'd)

Rose Coquillon and Johanne Juste, Haiti  
Singing “Stand up” by Cynthia Erivo.

Raquel Elizabeth Artiga de Paz, El Salvador  
Singing “Llevame despacio”

Rosa Guerra, Argentina  
Reading her poem “Unshackled”

Iris Carolina Romero Valdez, El Salvador  
Singing “La Basurita”

Emmanuel Iratuzi, Zimbabwe  
Dancing to “Makhadzi Magear”



*Dedicated to  
and celebrating  
the amazing talented  
and courageous  
performers from  
around the world*

*Bravissimo!*

*Marisa Labozzetta and Martin Wohl*



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## PERFORMANCES (cont'd)

[Michel Fotso Foko and Raphael Jude Kamga Foko](#), Cameroon  
Singing “Simo”

[Hanifa Hamdard](#), Afghanistan  
Dancing to “Sakina mast man Sakina mast”

[Daphnee Deristhene](#), Haiti  
Singing “Marche dans l’amour”

[Raquel Elizabeth Artiga de Paz](#), El Salvador  
Singing “Mariposa”



## AT THE HEART

INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

*Collaborative for Educational Services*



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## PERFORMANCES (cont'd)

Grace Thapa, Nepal

Dancing to “Nainowale Ne Ful”

Jean Ronaldo Loccident, Haiti

Singing “Obsede”

Rose Coquillon, Johanne Juste & Cassandra Orelus, Haiti

Singing, and Samuel Jacques playing “Une chance pour notre pays Haiti”

Raphael Jude Kanga Foko, Cameroon

Dancing to “Safarel Obiang”



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you to our  
community.

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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
**MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MINDY DOMB**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hampshire District

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Pronouns: she/her



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Center for New Americans thanks:

- Show hosts: Biani Salas and Jean Ronaldo Loccident
- Our performers: students, alumni, allies
- Center for New Americans colleagues, volunteers, board of directors
- Shea Theater Arts Center: Monte Belmonte, Linda Tardif, Connor Roberge, Wynn MacKenzie
- Montague Community Television: Dean Garvin
- \* Our generous sponsors

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# Center for New Americans

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We welcome volunteers as tutors, classroom assistants, citizenship clinic assistants, employment assistants, and drivers.



*Congratulations New Americans!*

Best wishes from your friends at River Valley Co-op



## river valley co-op

wild about local

[rivervalley.coop](http://rivervalley.coop)

River Valley Co-op is a cooperatively owned grocery store with locations in Northampton and Easthampton, specializing in fresh, local and organically grown foods.

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Both Stores Open Daily 8 am – 10 pm

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My deepest thanks to you for contributing to the rich diversity of our region.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can ever be of assistance to you.



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*Welcoming & Serving Immigrants since 1992*

We Are All Immigrants

by Maria Cristina Agudelo

With the heart loaded with the beats of a lifetime.

Eyes set on new horizons, regardless of fog, snow, rain,

to witness the cyclic life of seasons, the dazzling bloom of flowers,  
the greenery of nature, it seems everything comes to life.

The spirit remains restless as work awaits, to transform living  
conditions that in our countries of origin were subhuman, violent.

On the way, the skin is shed, the untold history remains. Uprooted  
by unique circumstances, because one is unique in this land, an  
uprooting that initially seemed like a nightmare, and only  
resilience, the voracious desire to change one's personal history and  
that of loved ones, leads to memories, reminiscences of unique  
moments, of family, friends, of the landscape that remains tattooed  
in the fibers of one's being, in the depths of the soul and only you  
can see it.



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We Are All Immigrants

by Maria Cristina Agudelo (cont'd)

Dreams of living another reality blend here. Paying the price,  
you want to pay, and time passes assimilating a system, other  
cultures that, however you look at it, that inner voice tells you it's  
better.

Better in the opportunity to grow, to build a life of struggle or to  
sink into one's own despair.

Because other things are the ghosts that haunt, ghosts of  
fears, denials, guilt, unforgiven, unprocessed griefs.

How easy it is then for migrating birds, because nature is  
perfect, they don't need permission. They are free, their  
instincts are not subdued, because they know that the sky  
belongs to everyone and even more so the earth.



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## SAVE THE DATE! July 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM Naturalization Ceremony Northampton Courthouse



United Way of  
Franklin & Hampshire Region

