



NEWSLETTER

Spring | 2019

HARLEM

New Americans Initiative



1ST ANNUAL HARLEM MULTICULTURAL EX-

Back in March the NAI at Harlem teamed with the Membership department to celebrate the many cultures of the Harlem area with a wide variety of delicious food! Participants cooked and brought dishes from all over the world. NAI staff helped serve as we tried tasty treats from Burkina Faso, Senegal, Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Jamaica and more! Our first Multicultural expo was a great time and we're hoping to make this little shindig an annual event!



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New Americans Welcome Center Goals
and Vision

"I'm always asked, 'What's the secret to success?' But there are no secrets. Be humble. Be hungry. And always be the hardest worker in the room."

- Dwayne Johnson



New Americans Field Trip – We Speak New York



Harlem YMCA NAI Students enjoyed their field trip to The Countee Cullen Library with their teacher Robin Winters. They attended the We Speak NYC session "No Smoking." We Speak NYC is an Emmy Award-winning TV show created to help ESOL Adult learners practice English. Students have the opportunity to learn English by watching We Speak NYC videos and discussing them with other adults around the world. For more information, check out <https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

Student Spotlight – New American Citizens!

The Harlem YMCA would like to congratulate all of our students who have recently obtained their U.S. Citizenship! Many of our students work very hard to become naturalized citizens of the United States and we're so proud of every one of them. So far in 2019, the following students have passed their exam:

*Aguiratou Savadogo *Assanatou Sanogo

*Ahlam Alshariki *Fahima Jama

*Boubacar Drame

Congratulations again!! Your hard work has paid off!



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ASK YOUR NAI

Q: I take classes that are ending in June. What will I do during the Summer?

A: We have a Summer session just for you! Registration is July 1st!

Q: Oh no! I missed registration, now what?

A: Certain classes may still have room for new students. Stop by the office to see if you can register! If not, we will add you to our contact list for the next cycle.

Q: All the classes are full... but I want to get started NOW!

A: Join our evening Language Skills Class! It meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm. Walk-ins welcome!

Q: You don't have the class I need right now. Can you still help me?

A: Yes we can! Schedule an appointment to meet with one of our case management volunteers and we'll help you search for what you're looking for.

Workforce Trainings

STRIVE[®]
PREPARED
TO WORK
DETERMINED
TO SUCCEED



As part of our new Job Readiness ESOL program, the Harlem NAI has partnered with community organizations for workforce trainings. We're very pleased to enter into partnerships with Strive New York and Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation to send our participants to their centers to work toward certifications as Home Health Aides, Security Guards, Office Administrators and more. We're also excited to continue our ongoing partnership with Hot Bread Kitchen – who provide women in the community with training and job placement as bakers. For more information about these programs, please contact us at 212-912-2163 or check out our website for registration dates – just search for the Harlem New Americans Welcome Center at ymcanyc.org!

Coming Soon at your NAI

Annual Arts Celebration @ the West Side Y

On June 11th, 6 pm – 8 pm. Current and former students will be presenting readings and artistic performances to celebrate their individual journeys to the U.S. and their hard work within the NAI.

TASC Readiness Assessment

For those students seeking to obtain their High School Equivalency diploma in the next few months, we will be holding a practice test to determine readiness for the real exam. The evening testing sessions will be June 11th and 12th at 6:30 pm (both nights). The morning session will be June 12th at 10:30 am. To sign up for the practice test, please see the office.

Summer 2019 Class Registration

The New Americans Initiative will host registration for Summer 2019 classes on July 1st and 2nd. Students interested in morning classes should arrive at 10 am; students interested in evening classes should plan to arrive at 5:30 pm. For questions, contact our office at (212) 912-2163.

New York City's YMCA is here for all. Our New Americans Initiative is a safe haven for immigrants looking for support and services. We never turn anyone away — or inquire about immigration status.

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The Goals and Vision of the New Americans Welcome Centers by Dio Gica

“The goal of the YMCA is to be recognized by every New American as a “safe haven” that provides multilingual information, resources and referrals and a wide range of services... to help them attain their goals...”

Program Goal and Vision: The YMCA of Greater New York is committed to serving the immigrant population of the City, and, in response to their needs, has opened New Americans Welcome Centers to help immigrants achieve literacy, cultural competence, and self-sufficiency. In 2010, the YMCA will have opened Welcome Centers in areas where immigrant communities are most underserved. The Chinatown, Staten Island, Harlem, Prospect Park, and Bronx YMCAs have already served their communities through these centers. In line with its commitment to better serve the immigrant population of New York City, the YMCA of Greater New York is opening a sixth location to serve Queens, the Flushing YMCA New Americans Welcome Center. The goal of the YMCA is to be recognized by every New American as a “safe haven” that provides multilingual information, resources

and referrals and a wide range of services (instructional, vocational, recreational, and family support) that will help them attain their goals.

The YMCA recognizes the need to build capacity and develop support and networks among new immigrants. As of the 2000 census, more than 35% of City’s residents are foreign-born and 43% of the City’s workforce are immigrants. Nearly 70% of the total immigrant population in New York speak a language other than English. Within this group 23% do not speak English well and about 10% do not speak English at all. Most of these immigrants live in population clusters that are underserved for informational, education, recreational, vocational, advocacy and human services that the YMCA of Greater New York is in a position to provide directly as well as in collabora-

tion with other human service and immigrant agencies.

Program Components: The New Americans Welcome Centers serve as multilingual information resource and referral centers, and provide immigrant families with a wide array of instructional, vocational, recreational, family support, and social services. Instructional services include English as a Second Language, Cultural Orientation, Citizenship Preparation, Job Readiness, and Computer Literacy. In addition, some of our Centers offer Adult Literacy and GED preparation classes as well as Substance Abuse and Alcohol Prevention Counseling.

For more information on the YMCA New Americans Welcome Centers please access our website at ymcanewamericans.org.

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