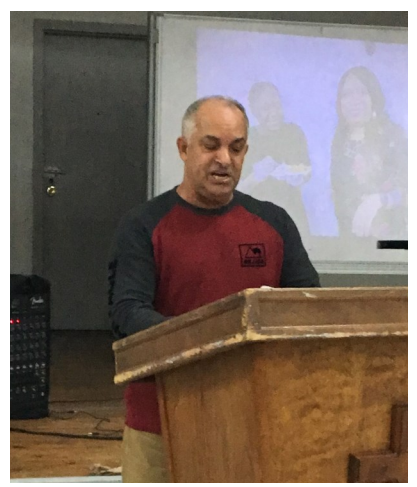




New Americans Initiative

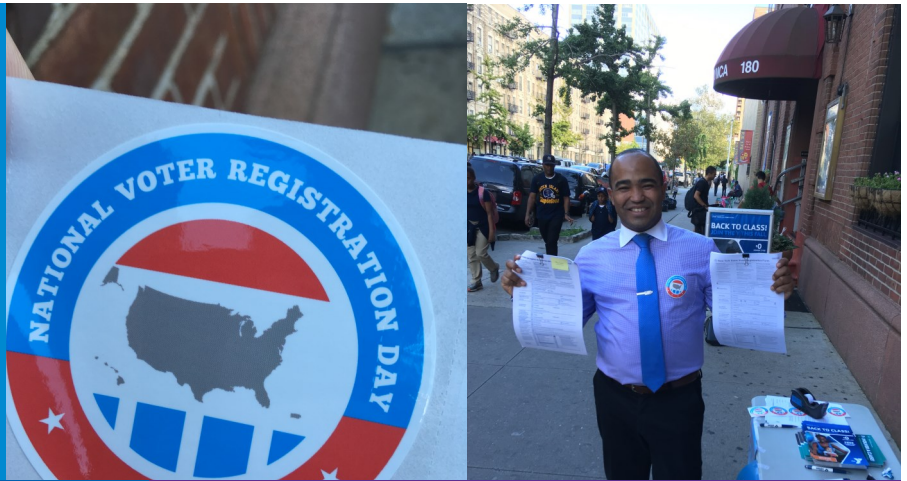
HARLEM WELCOMING WEEK 2019

On September 19th, 2019, the Harlem New Americans Initiative hosted a celebration of food and culture for 2019's Welcoming Week. About 50 community members came by to enjoy a mix of Caribbean and Italian food! Also in attendance were several community partner organizations who provided valuable resources and information for attendees. These included Manhattan Legal Services, African Services Committee, Hot Bread Kitchen, Harlem Hospital, World Education Services, and the Greater Harlem Healthy Start Program. We also heard testimonies from current students Abla Awoudi, Victor Garcia Olivares, Ali Abdullah, Kadiatou Bah, and Maimouna Cisse— all of whom shared their stories of how the NAI and the YMCA have helped them to pursue and achieve their goals. Thanks to all who helped organize the event! Harlem is proud to welcome people from all over the world!



"When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies in yourself."

- Tecumseh



CUNY Citizenship NOW! – Citizenship Drive in Harlem



On December 18th, the Harlem NAI will be hosting a mini citizenship drive with the partnership of CUNY Citizenship Now! CUNY Citizenship Now will be providing pro bono lawyers and volunteers to help with the flow of the event. The purpose of the drive is to help people who think they are ready to apply for the naturalization test. The pro bono lawyers will review their documents and inform them about their next step. All services are free of charge. To schedule an appointment, call 646-664-9400.

CUNY Applied Theatre Project: Citizenship

During our Fall cycle students from CUNY worked with our Intermediate ESOL Civics and Citizenship preparation class to use theatre, collage and other art to help students find new ways to understand their civics lessons and prepare for the Naturalization exam. Susanna Brock, Shante Skyers and Sarah Meister helped guide our students for five weeks and then threw a celebration party in class with a final series of craft activities. Thanks for bringing your studies to our students!



NEWSLETTER

Fall | 2019



ASK YOUR NAI

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

A: We have a Winter session just for you! Registration is January 6th!

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.

Harlem Fundraising Updates

Thanks to all of our wonderful participants for helping the NAI exceed its fundraising goals for 2019! Because of your generous donations this year, we raised \$3,800! These contributions are extremely important and help make it possible for the YMCA to provide free or discounted services to families in need, children who want to go to summer camp and our own immigration support services. In addition to our usual donations, we conducted a raffle for Summer 2019 that successfully raised \$700! Thanks to everyone who donated or purchased raffle tickets.

Our 2019 raffle winners are listed below! Congratulations!!

- *Amah Charles Folly-Kpoe: YMCA Duffel Bag
- *Grace Ellis Smith: 1 month free YMCA Membership
- *Georges Tambeyaore: 3 month free YMCA membership
- *Mariam Kone: 1 Month Unlimited MetroCard

Stay tuned for details on our 2020 raffle!

Coming Soon at your NAI

Winter 2020 Class Registration

The New Americans Initiative will host registration for Winter 2020 classes on January 6th and 7th. 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.

Naturalization Test Pilot Program

In early 2020, the Harlem YMCA will be participating in the Naturalization test pilot program. As USCIS makes changes to the questions our students will have a chance to practice on the new test! We'll announce more information as we receive it!

Register to Vote at Harlem NAI

Are you a US Citizen? Do you need to register to vote? Stop by our office any weekday and we'll help you complete registration forms and mail them for you! Make sure you can vote in the next elections!!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

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.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY



Department of
Youth & Community
Development

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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 ymcanyc.org.

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