

IOSC Newsletter



Immigration Outreach Service Center

Volume 1 / Issue 4

IOSC Partnership with the Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America



On Sunday, July 5th, Director Pat Jones, Assistant Director Cynthia Keenan and Board member Fr. Joe Muth accepted an award from the Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America on behalf of the IOSC. The award was in recognition of the IOSC's partnership with and service to the local Nepali community. In the last few years, the IOSC has had significant Nepali participation in many of our programs, including computer literacy and our ESOL

classes. We also worked with BANA to ensure that Baltimore Nepalese were counted in this year's census.

Bhim Bahadur BK, a leader in the Nepali community and the Vice President of the Professional Development and Research Centre (PDRC), presented the award to the IOSC. Bhim has been an invaluable partner to us over the last few years, connecting us to his community and working with us as we seek to make Baltimore a more welcoming and inclusive place for immigrants of all backgrounds.

IOSC and Our Daily Bread Employment Center's Second Annual Career and Resource Fair Goes Virtual

On Wednesday, September 30th and Thursday, October 1st we joined with Our Daily Bread Employment Center to host our second annual Career and Resource Fair. With concern for health and safety of all involved during the COVID-19 pandemic we hosted this event virtually.

On Wednesday, several guests met with Employers to explore career opportunities. On Thursday, guests conversed with Resource Organizations to learn about many opportunities. Both events were held on Zoom utilizing breakout rooms.

This year has brought on many challenges for all of us. We are grateful to all who participated and gathered safely to meet the needs of many. We are planning to offer our 3rd Career and Resource Fair in the Spring of 2021.

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Beyond the Boundaries Tutoring Continues on Zoom

September 12th we completed our summer program with separate sessions for K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade and 6th-12th grade students. We focused on reading and writing skills utilizing age appropriate books, poetry, and writing projects.

Our middle and high school students completed the Harlem Renaissance Capstone Project. They selected a poem written by a Harlem Renaissance poet, created an artistic depiction of the poem, related the poem to a song, and analyzed what each meant and how they related.

Prizes were given to the following students for their Capstone Projects:

- * The team of Charles and Cedric for literature choice and analysis
- * Andel for art depiction and analysis
- * The team of Gregory, Amirah, and Jaden for art depiction and analysis
- * The team of De'Vaughn and Kymani for song and analysis.

On September 19th we switched gears and launched individual tutoring on Zoom. As the new school year began virtually, tutoring continues keeping all safe by providing virtual tutoring. Our volunteer tutors meet online with one or two children for an hour on Saturday afternoon. Our students, parents, and tutors have been very patient with all the changes as we continue creating new ways to keep the children focused, engaged, and growing in their education.

Special thanks go to Sr. Bernadette, Bill, Elaine, Jennifer, Jill, Joshua, Kate, Kathy, Peter, Rick, Margaret, Mary Ellen, Allison, and Mary for planning and leading all of us through such wonderful lessons and discussions this Summer. This Fall, we welcome Sylvia back along with three new tutors, Emily, Kirsten, and Roger. If you are interested in the Tutoring Program please email Elaine at elaine@ioscbaltimore.org.

Diversity Visa (Green Card) Lottery 2022

The Department of State has published the particulars of the 2022 Diversity Visa (Green Card) Lottery Program. Applicants must submit entries for the DV-2022 program electronically at <http://dvprogram.state.gov/> no later than **12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.**

Computer Literacy Training

Thanks to a generous grant from the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle, our Computer Literacy Training for Immigrant Women began a new series of classes in October. Initial training took place in person with COVID-19 protections in place, and are being followed by group lessons on Zoom.

Lessons range from the basics of turning on a computer, setting up and utilizing email to using Google and other search engines to apply for jobs and upload resumes.

ESOL Classes

Classes began again this Fall, offering three course levels - beginning, intermediate and advanced - for people with varying English proficiency. If you or someone you know are interested in future classes, please contact Cynthia at cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org.

Financial Literacy Classes

Join the Financial Literacy for Immigrants classes held virtually on Saturday afternoons. Classes are held in English and our instructors are fluent in French and Swahili. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cynthia at Cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org.