

Bulletin for The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo
March 4, 2019

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Club President Jeannie Brandenberger.

The Invocation The Invocation was offered by Rotarian Judy Padget

The Arts News The Arts News was presented by Kristen Chesek

Samuel Hill, Private Detective: The No Talent Agency. *Presented by All Ears Theatre at First Baptist Church* Saturday, Mar 09, 2019 6 pm Free

Mahler's 5th. *Presented by Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra at Western Michigan University - Miller Auditorium* Saturday, Mar 09, 2019 8 pm Ticketed Event

Blue Heat Glass Art Gala and Auction. *Presented by Glass Art Kalamazoo at Glass Art Kalamazoo* Saturday, Mar 09, 2019 7 pm \$70 all inclusive

Exhibition Closes, Watanabe: Japanese Print Envoy. *Presented by Kalamazoo Institute of Arts at Kalamazoo Institute of Arts* Sunday, Mar 10, 2019 Noon – 5pm \$2-\$5, free to members

"A Festival Song" Presented by the Kalamazoo Singers. *Presented by Kalamazoo Singers at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church* Sunday, Mar 10, 2019 3 pm \$5 - \$18

Midwest RAD Fest. *Presented by Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers at Epic Center* Wednesday – Sunday, Mar 06 - Mar 10, 2019 8 am – 10 pm \$10-\$45

Madagascar JR. *Presented by Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Kalamazoo Civic Theatre* Wednesday – Sunday Mar 08 - Mar 15, 2019 Times Vary \$10

The Dancing Granny. *Presented by WMU University Theatre at Western Michigan University - Gilmore Theatre Complex* Friday – Sunday Mar 08 - Mar 17, 2019 Times Vary Ticketed Event

MARCH INDIE FILM SERIES. *Presented by Kalamazoo Film Society at Celebration! Cinema and IMAX* Mar 01 - Mar 28, 2019 Noon – 11 pm \$7

"A Place Away" exhibit at Kellogg Community College. *Presented by Kellogg Community College at Eleanor R. and Robert A. DeVries Gallery in KCC's Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center* Monday – Friday Mar 04 - Mar 29, 2019 8 am – 4:30 pm Free

Improv Class with Crawlspace Theatre, Mondays and Sundays. *Presented by Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Crawlspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building* Mondays or Sundays Mar 04 - Apr 08, 2019 6:30 pm M & 1 pm S \$150

Teen Night at the KIA. *Presented by Kalamazoo Institute of Arts at Kalamazoo Institute of Arts* Friday, March 8, 2019 6 – 8 pm Free

Art Detectives At the KIA *Presented by Kalamazoo Institute of Arts at Kalamazoo Institute of Arts* Saturday, March 9, 2019 10:30 am Free for ages 4-8 with an adult

Rootead In Youth Spring Sessions 2019 Presented by Rootead at Douglass Community Center Saturdays, Jan 26 - Mar 16, 2019 See class Schedule \$40-\$60

Once On This Island Presented by Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre Friday – Sunday, Feb 22 - Mar 10, 2019 7:30 pm & 2 pm \$15-\$25

Only the Shallow Know Themselves_ Yew Jumped too Deep, Yew Buried the Lead
Second Thoughts Presented by WMU Frostic School of Art - Galleries and WMU Gwen Frostic School of Art at Western Michigan University - Albertine Monroe-Brown Gallery
Jan 17 - Mar 17, 2019 Noon – 5 pm Free

Crescendo Community Voices Presented by Crescendo Academy of Music at Crescendo Academy of Music Thursdays, Jan 17 - Mar 21, 2019 4 pm \$30 – 10 week sessions

Guests

Jim Shafer was a guest of Rotarian Nancy Peterson

Alison Nuismier was a guest of Rotarian Nick Boyd

Juan Salinas was a guest of Rotarian Mary Zoeller

Nineva Marquis was a guest of Rotarian Rayline Latchaw Manni

Hilary Kerr was a guest of Rotarian Deb Harris and is a prospective Rotarian

Songs

Tim and John

Immigration Man - Crosby & Nash

Meeting Sponsor — Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation

Rotarian Nick Boyd, who has served on the board discussed benefits this group offers to young people, including after school programs, spring break programs, summer programs, as well as scholarships for kids. On March 9, Wizards Wands, and Wings Night will be held at Wings Stadium. This organization was founded by Lois Jackson.

Membership Minute Mary Zoeller Individually we're small, but together we're mighty. A sash was presented to President Jeannie.

Adopt-a-Family Bob Squire

Seth Weydreyer 10 children living with 2 adults, moved to new neighborhood, racial harrassment, house break in.

Steve Charnely - Jared Vanderweel, family came to Steve Charnley couple with 2 kids, having trouble making ends meet. Happy Christmas morning for kids, parents wanted nothing. Helped them through a tough moment right around the holidays.

Troy Thrash - thanked club for allowing his family to participate in Bell ringing. Nathan Dennison brought the family to them syrian refugees lived in tent city in turkey for 4 years prior to coming to US. Bought them all kinds of gifts for \$500 from Rotary, Gifts included a computer - great for education. What was really cool, Troy's son and 12-year old syrian boy had soccer in common. We left with more than we gave.

People of Action Video Rotary International *People of Action* video was shown.

World Service Project - Mike Williams A bookmobile slated for delivery to Mexico will be Bus will be on display for our April 29 meeting.

World Rotary Day World Rotaract Day March 17. Kalamazoo Rotaract 10th Anniversary

Celebrate in April at the Stamped Robin - more info to come. Potential Interact Club at Loy Norrix High School

Happy Bucks

Rick Briscoe - Karl Sandilin and Heritage Community Jay Prince

April Goodwin - celebrate every woman in here!

Rob Peterson - March 13 Satellite Club will meet at Brite Eyes Brewing 5:01

Sid Ellis - Gov visted the Douglass Community Center

Mary Zoeller - 2 kids graduating WMU in April. Both kids got job offers!

Troy Thrash - Each of his children had rolls in Big Fish the musical.

Judy Paget - completed fund raising campaign for Hospital Hospitality House

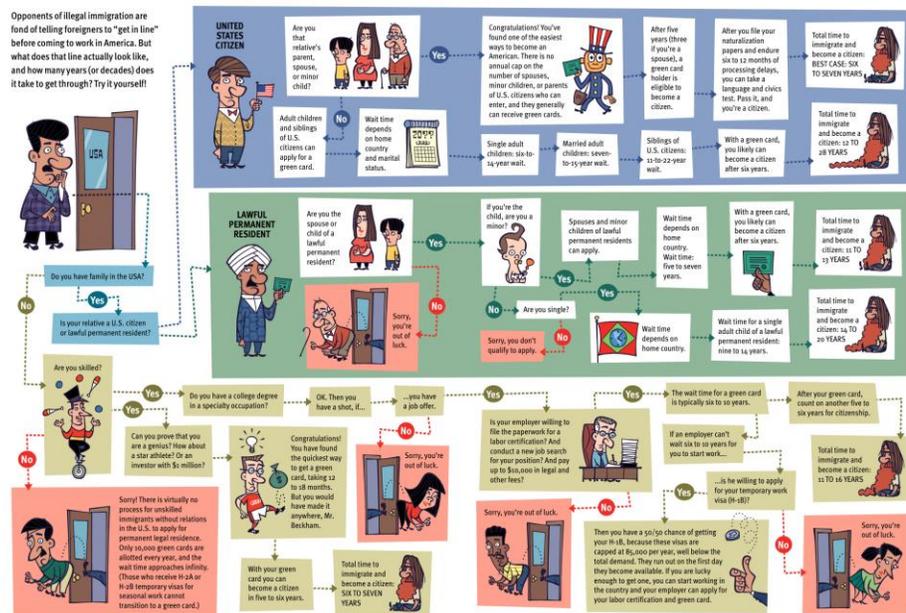
Program Justice For Our Neighbors - Kathy Purnell provided a quiz to help demonstrate how difficult it is for immigrants to negotiate the system.

National Organization (N-JFON) founded in 1999 by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Ministry of hospitality that welcomes immigrants by providing legal services, advocacy and education for communities of faith and the public.

What Part of Legal Immigration Don't You Understand?

Mike Flynn and Shikha Dalmia

Illustrated by Terry Colon



(Flynn is director of government affairs and Dalmia is a senior policy analyst at Reason Foundation. This chart was developed by Reason Foundation in collaboration with the National Foundation for American Policy.)

- The Kalamazoo Office has been in existence since 2015, first as a satellite office of the Grand Rapids office, then as a full-time office (2018). Grand Rapids was the first office in the State (“West Michigan” - 2004)
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- There are four full-time offices in the State of Michigan:
 - Grand Rapids
 - Kalamazoo
 - Metro Detroit
 - Traverse City
- **Justice for Our Neighbors** is a network of 19 sites across the country, each of them providing free or low-cost immigration legal services for low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. JFON attorneys meet with clients at legal clinics in churches and community centers, through referrals and scheduled appointments.
- **Non-discrimination policy:** We welcome all clients and volunteers, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, ideology, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- **Mission components:**
 - Welcome immigrants by providing free immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
 - Engage in advocacy for immigrant justice, and
 - Offer education to communities of faith and to the public.

Who are our Immigrant Neighbors in Michigan?

In 2017*

% Foreign Born

703,806 (7.1%)

Region of Birth

Africa: 5.3% (37,501)

Asia: 51.6% (362,927)

Europe: 19.1% (134,610)

Latin America (incl. Caribbean): 18.5% (130,051)

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Northern America (excl. Mexico): 5.2% (36,269)

Naturalized citizens: 357,978 (50.9%)

Non-citizens: 345,828 (49.1%)

“Unauthorized Population”

Total = 129,000.

By Region of Birth:

-Asia: 43% (55,000)

-Mexico and Central Am: 35% (45,000)

-Europe/Canada/Oceania: 15% (20,000)

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-Africa: 4% (6,000)

Under 16 yrs old: 7% (10,000)

16-24: 16% (20,000)

25-44: 48% (62,000)

45+ : 29% (37,000)

Data from the Michigan Profile at migrationpolicy.org (Migration Policy Institute). “Foreign Born” refers to people residing in the US at the time of the population survey who were not US Citizens at birth.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION: JFON HELPS IMMIGRANTS WITH BOTH HUMANITARIAN AND FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION MATTERS

How:

- General Legal Clinics (Church-based: Humanitarian and Family-based Immigration)
- Family-based legal clinics (Collaboration with Kalamazoo Public Library Branches)

Re-examining the Foundations of Asylum Law (Immigration Behind/Beyond the Headlines)

- Under U.S. law, a “refugee” is a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of a “well-founded fear of persecution” due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin.
- This definition is based on the United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocols relating to the Status of Refugees, which the United States became a party to in 1968.
- Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980, which incorporated the Convention’s definition into U.S. law and provides the legal basis for today’s U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and Asylum Procedures.

Asylum: Terminology

- Who is an Asylee?
 - A person who has sought protection from persecution on a protected ground from inside the United States or at the border. They must meet the definition of a “refugee.” In the US asylum seekers apply for protection from inside the country or at a port of entry.
 - UACs (Unaccompanied Alien Child) – A minor immigrant child who arrived in the US or at a port of entry without a parent or guardian.
 - Below the age of 18, enters without a parent or legal guardian.
 - If they arrive with a parent or legal guardian, and their parents are criminally prosecuted for improper entry, then the child is also designated a UAC (basis of “family separation” crisis)
 - UACs are placed in the care of Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which screens them (human trafficking) and facilitates release to family, sponsoring organization or foster home.
- What is the difference between an Asylee and a Refugee? A refugee seeks/applies for protection from outside the United States.

Elements of Asylum and Current Procedures

1. “Well-Founded Fear”
2. of “Persecution”
3. Perpetrated by the government or an entity the government cannot/will not control
4. “On account of”
5. – Race – Religion – Nationality – Political Opinion – Membership in a Particular Social Group

A “nexus” must be established between persecution and a protected ground.

Reality Check(s): Asylum and Due Process Concerns

- What can we learn from some of the recent legal controversies and attempts to change asylum procedures in the United States?
 - Matter of –A –B (2018) – “Particular Social Group”
 - “The Asylum Ban” (November 9, 2018 Presidential Declaration)
 - 8 U.S. Code § 1158. **(a) Authority to apply for asylum**
 - (1) In general** Any alien who is *physically present in the United States* or who *arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of arrival and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters)*, irrespective of such alien’s status, *may apply for asylum...*
 - Migrant Protection Protocols – USCIS Memorandum describing implementation – January 28, 2019

Declining numbers of Refugees resettled in U.S.

- Refugee Resettlement – President of the US sets the limit in consultation with Congress.
- Of the 19.9 M refugees worldwide, the US admitted 54,000 refugees in FY 2017, the refugee admission cap declined in FY 2018 to 45,000, but only about 22,000 were resettled.
- Current cap in FY 2019 is 30,000.
- Top origin country in 2018 was the Congo (7,878). The travel ban led to a drop in refugees from Syria and Iran. Travel ban countries effect: Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and certain governmental officials from Venezuela.

–Source: Refugee Processing Center + National Immigration Forum.

Public Charge as a Ground of Inadmissibility and Impact on Family Based Immigration

- In order to be eligible for legal permanent residency, must not be “inadmissible” to the United States
- One ground of “inadmissibility” is whether an individual is determined to be likely to be a “public charge”

Who Is/Ought to be Welcome as a Newcomer to Our Society?

Why and How do we Support Families with Public Resources?

How do the Public Charge regulations reflect who is welcome to American society?

How is public health impacted by access to healthcare benefits? Food stamps? Housing assistance?

One in four American children (19 million) have at least one immigrant parent., and 86% of these children are US Citizens.

In Michigan, the number of children with one or more foreign born parents in Michigan is 265,752 (12.5% of all children).

In Michigan, 14.1% of all children in low income families have one or more foreign born parents.

Public Charge: Current regulations

- “Likely to become a public charge” –not new.
- Excludes asylees, refugees, VAWA recipients, applicants for certain humanitarian visas.
- Current definition (1999 field guidance): can’t be “primarily dependent” on government for subsistence through receipt of cash benefits (SSI; TANF; State and local cash assistance; Institutionalization for long-term care).
- Already requires sponsors to assume financial responsibility (“Affidavit of Support”)

Proposed New Definition

- Adds non-emergency Medicaid (with exceptions)
- Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy
- SNAP (food stamps)
- Section 8 Housing: Housing Choice Voucher and Project-based rental assistance
- Public Housing
- Children’s current receipt not considered
- Other dependent’s current receipt not considered

Statutory Factors to consider...

- Age: 18-62
- Health: medical condition requiring extensive treatment or impact ability to work
- Family size
- Assets, resources, financial status: gross income greater than 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines; assets; financial liabilities, health insurance, past receipt of benefits, fee waiver use, credit history
- Education and skills: past employment; academic degrees; English proficiency
- Prospective immigration status : Immigrant or NIV
- Affidavit of Support

Heavily Weighted Factors

- Negative:
 - Currently receiving benefits or within the last 36 months
 - Serious medical conditions without insurance
 - No work history or prospects if work authorized
- Positive:
 - Assets, resources, support greater than 250% Federal Poverty income guidelines (63K for family of 4)
 - Work authorized and income greater than 250% of Federal Poverty income guidelines.

How Immigration Impacts Families

- Proposed changes would affect immigrants applying for a green card through a family-based petition.
- 2.3 million of the 4 million legally present noncitizens who arrived during the past 5 years (56%) do not have incomes sufficient to meet the 250% standard.
- 40% of US born persons would be unable to meet the threshold.
- In Michigan, number of children with one or more foreign born parent: 265,752 (12.5% of children); 14.1% of all children in low income families have one or more foreign born-parents.

The “How” and “Why”: Advocacy Building Empathy for the World House

“This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great ‘world house’ in which we have to live together – black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu – a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must somehow learn to live with each other in peace...All inhabitants of the globe are now neighbors...Nothing can be more tragic than for men to live in these revolutionary times and fail to achieve the new attitudes and the new mental outlooks that the situation demands...to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change...we must transform this worldwide neighborhood into a worldwide brotherhood.”

Source: “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?” by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Boston: Beacon Press, 1967.

Our Work is Supported by many individuals and organizations including...

- Battle Creek Community Foundation
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation
- Stryker-Johnston Foundation
- Richard Knapp Special Projects Fund
- Numerous individual donors and religious organizations (inter-denominational)
- “Friends of JFON-Kalamazoo” (Advisory Group, in-kind support)
- First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo (hosts JFON-Kalamazoo/in-kind support)

Submitted by Jim Cupper