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JCIRA January 2023 Newsletter

1 message

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We support the rights of immigrants and their families, giving priority to those who live or work on the Olympic Peninsula and immigrant detainees within Washington State, through access to legal services, standing witness, family support, community education and advocacy.

Why is there so much news from JCIRA?

We are cognizant of not overflowing your In Box, but there is just so much happening right now that the JCIRA Board and volunteers decided to send out additional announcements and newsletters.

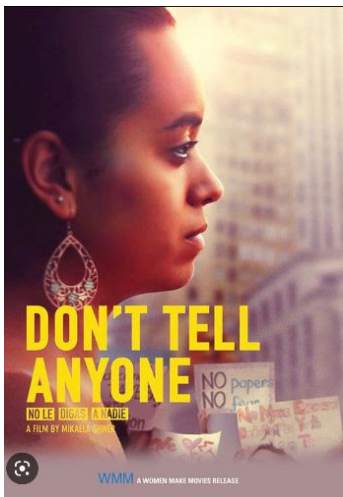
Thanks for your patience and support!

In this Newsletter:

- A Note from [Natalia](#): Focus Film Festival
- Reminder: JCIRA [General Meeting](#) is coming up!
- Join JCIRA for Lobby Day with [WAISN](#)
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***A Note from Outreach Coordinator Natalia Durán:
Focus Film Festival with Dove House was a Huge Success!***



The *Don't Tell Anyone* screening event was a successful evening. There were two goals. The first was to sensitize local organizational decision makers to realities the immigrant community faces feeling safe navigating systems that many times do not work for them. A second goal was for organizations that advocate for vulnerable groups to learn about each other and how to better serve our clients by sharing our expertise.

We heard the story of an undocumented teenager who also is a survivor of sexual assault. The documentary was not an organizational perspective, but a very powerful way to show a reality. This definitely was a good conversation starter for a very diverse audience. The survivor shared the way she transformed fear into power, eventually using this power to achieve her dreams. Angie Rivera inspired many in her generation to go out and say, "I am undocumented."

When we hear one more inspiring story it helps us realize the greatness of the work we are doing. It helps us be open to stories we have not heard but know exist, and our work can make a big impact in them.

JCIRA is planning to explore ways to use art in its different forms to further our work. For now ask yourself, what is the story you haven't heard?

JCIRA GENERAL MEETING

January 26, 2023
5 p.m.

You can join in person at our new
JCIRA Multicultural Center
2322 Washington St.

Or you can join online:

[Zoom Call-In Information:](#)

Topic: JCIRA General Meeting
Time: Jan 26, 2023 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

[Join](#) Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86953210831?pwd=Q0Y3NIBLMkFvNzE0dHFXT2hvNDNUQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 5321 0831
Passcode: JCIRA
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,86953210831# US (Tacoma)

JCIRA Supports WAISN's Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day

Día de Cabildeo de Inmigrantes y Refugiados de WAISN

Join JCIRA at WAISN Lobby Day – February 16th in Olympia

JCIRA is a member of the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, the largest immigrant-led coalition in Washington with 400+ member groups. WAISN is a powerful, volunteer-driven network of immigrant and refugee-rights organizations and individuals distributed across the state that strives to protect, serve and strengthen communities across the state.

WAISN is focusing on two main areas of legislation for this session -- Unemployment Insurance for Undocumented workers (HB1095/SB5109) and Health Equity for Immigrants with a Bill number expected to be assigned in the next week.

HB 1095/SB 5109 will create a permanent, separate system providing unemployment benefits to undocumented workers in Washington State. Presently, although they pay

taxes, undocumented workers are ineligible for unemployment benefits. In light of Covid and during the winter season, this continues to heavily impact the livelihood of immigrants. HB 1095/SB 5109 has been filed and had its first hearing last Friday in the House.

Health Equity for Immigrants is a proposed bill that will provide equal access to healthcare for all low-income Washingtonians, regardless of their immigration status, in coordination with the previously approved 1332 Waiver. Currently, undocumented immigrants are ineligible for both State sponsored and private health insurance. In many cases, this causes undocumented immigrants to not seek necessary medical care, knowing that the resulting bill will be too expensive. WAISN is currently working with a sponsor to submit this bill next week, hoping for a hearing in two weeks.

February 16th is an opportunity for us to actually meet with our legislators in Olympia to voice our support. If interested in participating in the WAISN Advocacy Day, please email Roberta at lindemanroberta2020@gmail.com

For more information check out their website <https://www.waisn.org/>

JCIRA Website Updates

We have updated our website to highlight the new JCIRA Multicultural Center. We will be sending updates as this work progresses. See new information on the site on how to get involved and check out the new Founder's page [here](#).

Status of Federal Immigration Legislation

January 2023

If you have questions about immigration legislation or other immigration issues, send them to jcirawa@gmail.com with the word "Question" in the subject line. We will try to answer questions either by return email or in this newsletter.

The 118th United States Congress convened on January 3, 2023. With the start of a new Congress all previously pending legislation is wiped away. There is a legislative fresh start.

For the past three weeks Congress has been primarily concerned with organizational issues. As of this date, no immigration related bills have been introduced in the Senate and only eight have been introduced in the House. Seven of these are aimed, directly or indirectly, at either keeping immigrants out of the U.S. or removing unauthorized immigrants. The other bill is intended to facilitate granting of family separation visas.

Major issues that need to be addressed by legislation and for which legislation failed to pass in the previous Congress include:

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform - A total rewrite of U.S. immigration law that since 1965 almost everyone says is needed, although with differing objectives, but nothing happens.
- A Path to Citizenship for DACA Residents and a possible opening for new DACA applicants.
- Farm Workforce Modification Act - Provides for entry of migrants and immigrants needed to fill vacant jobs in the agricultural industry.
- Afghan Adjustment Act - Grants permanent resident status to Afghan refugees who are present in the U.S. under Humanitarian Parole which currently has a two year limit. Many of these persons were promised protection in return for service to the U.S. military or government. If no action is taken, as many as 75,000 persons could be subject to deportation as soon as August of this year. For many deportation would be a death sentence.

Tutors Needed

Students at Chimacum Middle/High School want after-school tutoring in math, writing, science, social studies, and more. Sessions will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:20 p.m. to 3:15 pm at the school. Tutors should have experience working effectively with young people, and appropriate topical knowledge and skills. Your application will include giving permission for a background check. The goal is to start in February following an orientation. Contact Doug Edelstein for more information at daedelstein2@gmail.com.



WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT

A new tax credit
for Washington
workers starts
in 2023!

Department of
Revenue
Washington State

New Tax Credit

Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC) has information on a new tax credit for 2023. People can file tax credit applications at any time during 2023, including **after the traditional April 15 tax filing deadline**. It is based on earnings and family size in 2022. The Tax credit (up to \$1200) is available to all adult residents with either a Social Security Number or ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number - ITIN), regardless of immigration status. Applications will be available February 1.

Details at [WA DOR's Working Families Tax Credit website](#).

Other News of Note

News from the JCIRA Treasurer

Tax statements will be mailed out or emailed to donors by the end of January, the method determined by what contact info we have for each donor.

Immigrant Assistance is Free Speech

Supreme Court will hear a case this spring on the constitutionality of a law that makes it a crime to “encourage” unauthorized immigrants to come to or stay in the US. They heard a similar case which pits the law against free speech concerns. At that time, several justices suggested that the law violates the First Amendment by turning commonplace statements into felonies. See more information [here](#).

Afghan Refugees in Limbo

With respect to the status of the Afghan Adjustment Act, [HIAS President and CEO Mark Hetfield wrote](#), “There was solid precedent for the Afghan Adjustment Act. Congress has in the past provided paths to permanent residency for Cubans fleeing the Castro regime, for Vietnamese and other refugees after the wars in Southeast Asia, and for Iraqis after Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, sadly, the United States Congress failed to rise to its obligation to stand with the Afghans who stood with us.”

Washington State Immigrant Programs

Washington State currently funds three programs that support services to immigrant and refugee communities in this area: the Washington New Americans program and the DSHS Naturalization program support people who are lawful permanent residents seeking to obtain U.S. citizenship; and the Legal Support and Community Safety program in the Department of Commerce supports immigration legal assistance to individuals who are not lawful permanent residents but can obtain permanent immigration status in the U.S.

1332 Waiver Approved

The federal government has approved Washington's 1332 waiver application — a

decision that lays the groundwork for many in Washington's immigrant communities to finally access needed health care coverage.

Good News!



1. In 2022 state legislatures around the US adopted 79 bills having a positive impact on immigrants, as reported in the Catholic Legal Immigration Network's 2022 State Immigration Legislation & Policies [Annual Report](#).
2. Wisconsin legal community rallies to aid Afghan immigration, read more [here](#).
3. Nearly 1 million immigrants became U.S. citizens in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, after the COVID-19 pandemic caused a hiatus in processing. It was the highest number of naturalizations in 15 years, showing the growing importance of immigrants with regard to who lives, works and votes in the U.S., according to a Pew Research analysis and the [NY Times](#).
4. When Delia Ramirez speaks of providing solutions to the shortfalls of the U.S. immigration system, the new member of Congress speaks from experience. Her mother was pregnant with her when crossing the Rio Grande. Now she is fighting to keep DACA recipients, including her husband, from being deported. Read more on this story [here](#).
5. The State Department launches a new way for ordinary Americans to resettle refugees, story from [NPR](#).

FOR YOUR CALENDER

- January 26: JCIRA General Meeting (5:00)**
- February 4: Mamond baby shower**
- February 7: Clallam Resilience Project Meeting (see below)**
- February 16: WAISN Advocacy Day**
- February 16: Reconnect Luncheon (Dove House)**

The Clallam Resilience Project will host a Zoom meeting on the adversity and trauma faced by many immigrant families on Tuesday February 7th, 2023, from 10:00 – 11:30am. Participants will learn about adversity and trauma faced by many immigrant families, how families acculturate to living in the United States and ways to foster resilience as families navigate acculturation in their new communities. For more information see here: [Clallam Resilience Project: Immigrant families – experiences from adversity to resilience \(clallamcountybar.com\)](#)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Medical and Health

JC Mash (free clinic)
136 Water Street, Suite 109
PT, WA 98368 360-385-4268

JFC Express Clinic
[834 Sheridan St., Suite B](#)
PT, WA 98368 360-385-2204

North Olympic Healthcare Network
Two locations in Port Angeles
360-452-7891 www.nohn-pa.org

Jefferson Dental Clinic
[915 Sheridan](#)
PT, WA 98368 360-344-1005

Food

All Food Banks:
Jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org

Quilcene Food Bank
[294952 US 101](#)
Quilcene, WA 98376

Tri-Area Food Bank
[760 Chimacum Road](#)
Chimacum, WA
98325

360-385-9462

Port Townsend Food

Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization
1110 Jefferson St., PT, WA 98368
360-379-3246 www.echhojc.org

Bank
1925 Blaine Street
PT, WA 98368

WIC Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and
Children under 5
Jefferson County Public Health
615 Sheridan St., PT, WA 98368
360-385-9432

Other Services

Dove House Advocacy Services
Advocacy, basic needs, housing assistance, and
other resources for recent and past victims of
domestic violence, sexual assault and general
crime.
www.dovehousejc.org
1045 10th Street, PT WA 98368
Office and 24/7 Crisis Line: 360-385-5291

St. Vincent de Paul
Help with needs like food, gas, prescriptions,
mobile phones/minutes, propane, utilities,
medical/dental expenses, repairs, clothing and
laundry.
<https://svdpejc.org/>
360-379-1325

Olympic Community Action (OlyCAP)
Provides assistance for all basic needs (rent,
utilities, energy, prescriptions, gas, public
transportation, etc.) for low-income households.
www.olycap.org
823 Commerce Loop Quilcene, WA 98376
360-385-2571

Housing

Bayside Housing and
Services
www.baysidehousing.org
310 Hadlock Bay
Road
Port Hadlock, WA
98339
360-385-4637

Jefferson County
Emergency Shelter
Located in the
basement of the
American Legion
209 Monroe St, Port
Townsend, WA 98368
Regular hours 4:00
PM-8:00 AM 7 days a
week.

DONATE TO JCIRA!

Support our mission by donating to JCIRA. Click on the word Donate or click [Here](#) to go to the donation page on our website. Thank you for considering!



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JCIRA

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Port Townsend, WA 98368-0647

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