



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

The YMCA of Greater Hartford



Here are some Summer highlights from around our Y.

Upcoming Event: Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast

Every year, the YMCA of Greater Hartford sponsors the Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast, hosted by the Hartford Seminary in collaboration with numerous faith organizations across the region.

This year, the Y will have a table at the event and we'll be collecting socks in honor of the 2019 theme—ending homelessness. To help collect socks, contact Robin at robin.thibault@ghymca.org

November 7th, 7:00am
Artists Collective; 1200 Albany Ave.



Click the image above for more info.

GHYMCA DIG Statement:

The Y is made up of diverse people working side by side to strengthen our communities. Together, we work to ensure everyone -- of any income, faith, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, cultural background or other unique personal characteristics -- has the opportunity to live life to its fullest. We share the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, which are the foundation for everything we do.

[Visit our DIG website page HERE](#)

Shout Out to Camp Jewell

This summer, Camp Jewell celebrated the opening of a new health center with their campers who return each year from Camp Rising Sun. They watch an annual fireworks show, but this year they got to celebrate the extra space that was built to help keep campers safe.



Jewell hosts campers from Camp Rising Sun every year, a non-profit whose mission is to be a place where kids with cancer have fun and smile.

Congrats on the new center—you've all worked really hard!

WE BUILD LIFELONG SUCCESS



Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TOUR OF NATIONS AT CAMP DAKOTA

Campers Learned about 5 Different Countries



Thanks to Marilyn Vazquez, the Global Initiatives Committee (GIC), and Camp Dakota at Wilson-Gray, campers this summer got to explore five different countries over five weeks of summer camp.

Each week, Marilyn highlighted a different country—**Spain, India, Saint Lucia, Peru, and China**—the campers learned information about the country of the week, listened to guest speakers, did arts projects related to the countries, and played games that tested their knowledge of what they learned.



The campers were excited, engaged, and entertained, and the energy in the room was palpable. They asked a lot of questions about the different countries and cultures, and they were enthusiastic when being tested because they knew the answers and retained the lessons they learned.

About the Key Players



Marilyn is a Springfield College Sophomore who interned with the Y this summer. We're helping her achieve a Global Leadership Certification through Y-USA. Part of earning the cert requires completing a project that serves a global community. Tour of Nations was her project, and a huge success!

Thank you, Marilyn—you're awesome!

The Global Initiatives Committee is an association board level subcommittee, made up of volunteers and staff, that has been engaged in **global engagement through GHY for over 50 years**. The mission of the GIC is to promote international understanding and increase cultural competency throughout the YMCA of Greater Hartford and its communities in order to better serve our members and communities in an increasingly diverse and inter-connected society.

A big thanks to **Melody Santiago, Norma Ortiz, Solomon Lewis**, and all the staff at Camp Dakota who made this program educational and positive for all the campers. Thanks to **Deepika Singhal** for representing India, **Rachel Anthony** for her invaluable support, and to all the guests and advisors who helped Marilyn.

Click on each country to see its Power Point or Info Sheet.

SPAIN



CHINA



Saint Lucia



PERU



INDIA



Want to earn your Global Leadership Certification?
Learn about the cert through Y-USA, [HERE](#).

Want to get sponsored to earn your Global Cert?
Submit a proposal to the Global Initiatives Committee!
We'll be seeking new applicants in 2020.

Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL DAY AT WHEELER

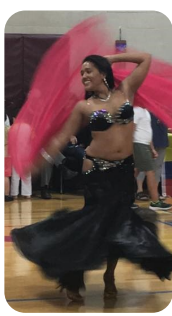
Participants explored 8 Different Countries



Thanks to Hoda Mousa, the Global Initiatives Committee (GIC), and the Wheeler branch, children, families, members and participants got to explore 8 different cultures all packed into one gymnasium, without even needing to book a flight.

Volunteer teams each highlighted a different country—**India, Poland, Lebanon, Russia, Guatemala, Egypt, Turkey, and Colombia**—the participants sampled food from each culture, watched fantastic performances of music and dance, and learned about holidays, traditions, landscapes and figures important to each country.

Kids went from country to country with a passport. They got to earn a stamp from each one by answering a question about the country they were visiting.



The crowd participated in performances, as well. A favorite were the belly dancers who showed talent, celebrated body diversity and female empowerment, and one even balanced a sword on top of her head for an entire routine!

We're so proud this event was hosted at the Y, where people from all over the world could come together to connect, share their culture, and celebrate what unites us.



About the Key Players

Hoda is a Membership Services Representative at the Wheeler Y. She's helped host the branch's first Iftar Dinner for people who celebrate Islam to come together and for people of any faith to learn about this important tradition for Muslim communities.

In addition, she was sponsored by the GIC to earn her Global Leadership Certification. through Y-USA. Part of earning the cert requires completing a project that serves a global community. Wheeler's International Day was her project, and a total blast!

Thank you, Hoda—you're a rock star!

The GIC is an association board level subcommittee, made up of volunteers and staff, that has been globally engaged through GHY for over 50 years. The mission of the GIC is to promote international understanding and increase cultural competency throughout the YMCA of Greater Hartford and its communities in order to better serve our members and communities in an increasingly diverse and inter-connected society.



A big thanks to the Wheeler staff, our GIC intern, Rachel Anthony, and to each of the volunteer teams who helped Hoda create something magical!

Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter

ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

HARTFORD PRIDEFEST AND WELCOMING WEEK AT HALE

Welcoming Week 2019

Thanks to Amanda Kelly, Lisa Paterson, and the rest of the brilliant team of staff, members, and volunteers, Hale hosted the association's first Welcoming Week. Way to go, team!

Members shared about their ancestry, experienced food from multiple cultures, and the facility was opened for newcomers to explore the Y.



Hartford PrideFest 2019

Thanks to Gerina, Taylor, Tricilla, and Jada who helped at the Y's first PrideFest table this September! Thanks to Sam for putting together the amazing guest passes that we handed out, and thanks to everyone who helped us celebrate Pride!

Pride is so much fun, and next year it will be at Bushnell Park—room for way more colorful entertainment and connection. Let us know if you want to get involved in PrideFest 2020!



We believe our communities are stronger when everyone feels welcome and we work together for the common good. Learn more about Welcoming Week [HERE](#). Or...

[Watch THIS super quick video.](#)



To get more involved in DIG (Diversity, Inclusion, Global), contact: robin.thibault@ghymca.org

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **East Hartford** sponsored bikes in "Breaking the Cycle."
- **Farmington Valley** attended the annual Race for Chase.
- **West Hartford** graduated another class of Bell Power Scholars.
- **Indian Valley** collected goods for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry.
- **Glastonbury** hosted a DIG training for their camp staff this summer.
- **Wheeler** collected backpacks and school supplies for the United Way.
- **Tri-Town** started planning how to spend the \$2,000 DIG grant they won.
- **Downtown** hosted Work out Wednesdays on the lawn at State House Square.
- **Camps Jewell & Woodstock** hosted dozens of international camp staff from all over the world.
- **Wilson-Gray** supported "Shoot Hoops, Not Guns" with "Mothers United Against Violence."
- **Hale** engaged volunteers, and held a blood drive and groups for cancer and grief support.



There's always so much going on at our Y.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

NEWSLETTER

The YMCA of Greater Hartford

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Anne Renzi
Anai Smith
Julia Krzywdzinska
Aaron Owens
Alayna Gary
Ahmet Ozsaya
Seprina Smith
Margaret Smith
Tamara White
Linda Simmons
Timothy McGough
Ivana Holloway
Michelle Carini
Raven Luke
Xavier Carrion
Chyanne Gordon
Kaikia Boreland
Sophie Groenstein
Jean Hall
Mary Ann Oduako
Hanna Canfield
Madison Clark
Jennifer Aldrich
Anna Beaulieu
Rachel Anthony
Rebecca Kaliff
Ian Cassidy
Tiffany Franceschi
Molly McGrath
Amy Pivacek
April Phelps
Stephanie Dunia
Olivia Eggers
Bridget Beahn
Celina Chase
Samantha Dooley
Eliza Browning

Janell Martin
Owen Adlerstein
Joseph Rice III
McKenzie Roller
Muhittin Dincay
Ismael Martinez
Luz Vargas
Darius Williams
Tiaira Lawrence
Jania Randolph
Tyler Millen
Amina Bailey
Anna Chamberland
Mariah Parreira
Matther Loveland
Christina Leadbeater
Caroline DuBois
Shadesse Mccrae
Olivia Statile
Cathy Johnson
Noah Tedesco
Cristina Lucero Diaz
Elisha Foster
Rebeccah Kirsch
Jonathan Fojtik
Marta Zaber
Rosanna Airo
Jennifer Ungerleider
Zoe Tomkunas
William Gibbons
Sue Ledversis
Meredith McLaughlin
Jennie Boyd
Alexa D'Errico
Mara Myers
Leo Blain
Nathan Bochicchio

Ashley Talbot
Karah Schulman
Alyssa Lehman
Marzena Depciuch
Karolina Zybala
Veysel Balat
Sergen Say
Alexander Tsaloev
Kate Bonanno
Davonte Griffith
Madison Ruby
Hayley Hintz
Rebecca Alper
Savanna Stoddart
Andrew D'Alleva
Jackson Lent
Ann Zimmerman
Claudia Nanez
Kailey Titus
Tommaso Calderan
Sophie Simonsen
Ava Cowles
Charles Effman
Keely Fay
Jerome Martinez
Jennifer Motsko
Timothy Lyons
Jane van Arsdale
Campbell Johnson
Elizabeth Smyth
Simon McDonald
Jibril Traore
Sarah Bell
John Johnston
Jilian Chow
Anna Abou-Francis
Hailey Barron

Thomas Jordan
Martin Balusik
Jack Nanez
Shelby Shea
Jeremiah Huntt
Ferreira Milena
Faith Young
Laurelyn Mayen
Julia Healy
Isabel Davidson
Jessica Pugliese
Harris Jacobson
Reece Metchick
Lynne Andre
Loren Francione
Aven Williams
Taylor Venturino
Scott Kellock
Elli Hills
Louisa Betts
Charon Pearce
Kyle Charnley
Ewan Corley
Nicola Brechany
Amber Holland
Hadley Day
Sydney Black
Amanda Dobrowolski
Kaylie Masi
Jocelyn Sabourin
Erin Conway
Madison Knapp
Ethan Larkin
Jillian Storms
Matthew Tuttle
Marilyn Vazquez
Rohan Kataria

Rose-Anna Ravetto
Andrew Ouellette
Collin Atwood
Natalia Perlik
Agnieszka Wiktor
Nicole Eaton
Darcey Bastow
Benjamin Grossman
Jessica Price
Julia Smith-Horn
Kristine DiNoia
Lauren Herlihy
Kim Giwa
David Whiskeyman
Cynthia Calidonna
Luis Daniels
Paulina Legumina
Melinda Trifone
Elizabeth Brown
Jared Fellows
Angelina Opoku
Tyler Kent
Jill Arcari-Couture
Olivia DeSio
Joseph Shuey
Sofia Circosta
Rita Monahan
Patricia Taylor
Karen Poulin
Hailley Pabon
Shelby Eastman
Catherine Thomas
Erin Richter
Alexander Williams
Natalie Baclawski
Taylor Clarke
Tiana Brown

This is a list of employees starting between June 1st and Sept 20th. If anyone is missing from this list, they might have been included in the last newsletter, or they might still need to be entered into Kronos. Reach out for questions—robin.thibault@ghymca.org



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WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Mikayla Blaha
Pierce Vaughns
Benjamin Smith
Samantha Worster
Bridget Walsh
Jessica Krupnikoff
Gabriela Wolanski
Khalil Freymond
Haley Short
Jacob St Cyr
Jennifer Hepburn
Amanda Daigle
Arnaldo Dejesus
Torrance Allen
Cody Rogers
Arianna Dumais
Helen Hale
Jewlion Beck
Emma Panarella
Nathan Langmeier
Kacey Kuzia
Jerel Pollard
Ronald Rybacki
Emily Tycz
Lisa Paterson
Ayanna Collymore
Leah Hoffman
Amanda Leigh
Harrison Lewis
Alexandra Bradley
Benjamin Stepien
Ryan Barnwell
Brenda Conti
Bianca Valentin
Stefanie Schildhabel
Kelly Jurman
Trevor Stoneman
Jill Ouillette
Julymari Florez

Alexander Holder
Gloria Dishnica
Sierra Poggio
Andrew Fogil
Tanishka Dalavi
Natalie Chamberlin
Edward Cahill
Esha Shrivastav
Alanna Neary
John Glaspey
Matt Klimkosky
Mia DeMartino
Jolee Iannantuoni
Antwan Gibson
Sara Ayers
Kenneth McDowell
Sean Norton
Rori Fararo-Brooks
Jillian McCormick
Zachary Senecal
Celine Hunt
Lily Mellitz
Erin Kulcsar
Maraina Mantie
Zachary Dery
Donna Vickers
Tanya Simon
Kiara McDonald
Ricardo Granados
Teddie Wilson
Ryan Gonzalez
Ashley Casavant
Connor Jeroski
Dina Allam
Kristen Lachapelle
Caroline Wilcox
Tatiana Rodriguez
Elizabeth Vargas
Breana Soto

Andrea McKay
Abigail Perkins
Rebecca Cooke
Julianne Guarnieri
Charlene Pineiro
Jenni Thibedeau
Jamie Pitcher
Naomi Benningfield
Linda Hunter-Williams
Anthony Dizenzo
Kathleen Virkler
Kathryn Maker
Ashaureah Williams
Jada Hines
Vicki Thibault
Amy Allen
Tyler Stoner
Angellina Roy
Clara Leoutsacos
Keri Madigan
Emily Sargent
Kaitlyn Moss
Martin Moncada
John Ruot
Casey Walsh
Jordan Sakal
Alessandra Damato
Melissa Leonard
Autumn Furey-LeBeau
Erin Murphy
Cassandra Raboin
Pallavi Rawat
Kyla La Russo
Conor Murphy
Kayla Charbonneau
Nicole Plourde
Melinda Clemmons
Fatima Rodriguez
Adrienne Chodnowsky

Chimyra McCray
Keval Ahir
Casey Casasanta
Nathan Masco
Jake Hevner
Alexandra Elmer
Jarier Perez
Fleur Siebesma
Walter Bruce
Ethan Henebry
Shamarla King
Mariam Chaudhry
Shai-Anne Gaston
Kathryn Pugh
Sara Pare
Andre Looney
Katerina Looney
Christopher Foyer
Tenesha Davis
Shammah Williams
Jaime Matson
Myron Sztyler-Magee
Kamoya Francis-Hylton
Marisol Ortiz Del Castillo
Elizabeth Carreon Rodriguez
Krzysztof Wisniewski
Jorge Zambrano Rosas
Makayla Monroe-Owens
Bohdana Bereznytska
Francoise Deristel-Leger
Barbara Robertson-Edwards
Monisha Manivasagam
Amalinalli Zuniga Bravo
Ruth Flores Barrientos
Robert Weatherington
Isabella Guajardo-Moore
Debra DeSantis-Lauzier
Sebastian Cabreja Leonardo

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