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Kathreen Harrison

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Understanding, Embracing, and Celebrating Diversity in Maine

## WELCOME | BIENVENUE | KARIBU | MURAKAZE | SOO DHOWOOW | BEM VINDO | BOYEYI MALAMU



Team 207 presents African Night on March 7 at South Portland High School. The event will showcase cultures of Africa.

Story on page 19.

L to R: Salah Isaack, Casay Mohamed, Djamal Maldoum, and Abdirahman Abdirah-



AMJAMBO AFRICA! turns two years old on April 1, 2020! For a fun look at a few of the amazing people and wonderful events we have profiled since our launch as a print newspaper in April 2018 see pages 2 and 3. We now also host a website that is updated daily and social media sites. We have grown from a distribution reach of 10K to upwards of 35K. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Maine Initiatives, the Maine Community Foundation, our loyal corporate sponsors (see page 4), and our fabulous readers. Thank you one and all!

#### **Deering High School Diversity and Quality are Points of Pride** by Kathreen Harrison

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DEERING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, parents, administrators, and teachers feel a great deal of pride for their school, and that pride was palpable at the school's well-organized and well-attended January 22 evening open house for eighth graders. When asked to comment on an August 2019 article in the Portland Press Herald that said students felt unsafe at Deering, multiple students interviewed at the January open house said they love their school and feel completely safe there. In fact, all spoke extremely highly of their experience at Deering. Joey Lancia, who penned a letter to the editor of the Portland Press Herald on August 6, in opposition to the article by Rachel Ohm, said "The rumors fostered by the article last year misrepresented the school." Lilly Russell, also a senior, agreed. "Some incidents last year were blown way out of proportion." Indeed, there was no discernible sign of tension at the January event.

Instead, the school's regard for academic excellence, global competency, diversity, community, and the uniqueness of the individual was on full display throughout the evening, which featured a warm welcome in the gymnasium, time to browse club and activity offerings, workshops in classrooms, and plenty

most diverse school north of Boston, with 825 students who come from more than 30 countries on five different continents and speak over 32 home languages.

parents, and staff. The school purports to be the Xavier Botana on

Deering offers 16 Advanced Placement courses, multiple dual college enroll-



per year than traditional schedules, and to

ment programs, 39 co-curricular activities, 25 athletic teams, Mandarin, Arabic, Engineering, Street Law, and a number of other courses not offered elsewhere in Portland. The Four Block schedule enables students to explore more disciplines and topics

Continued on page 13



Do you need assistance applying for w ork authorization? Hope House can help. Nancy Markowitz and Carolyn Graney Story p. 16



Maine College of Art's (MECA) inaugural Resilience Week GLIMPSE OF THE CITY by Amber Shahzad Story p. 18



Titi de Baccarat's 'Who is it?' art exhibition at UMVA Story p. 18

# Amjambo Africa Celebrates Community, Diversity, and the Future of Maine!

Glimpses from our first two years



Westbrook City Councilor Claude Rwaganje, Yusuf Muse Yusuf of Gateway Community Services (and Somali translator for Amjambo Africa), Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed, Co-Principal of Deering High School



Mechanical Design Engineer Oumalkaire Said Barkad from Djibouti



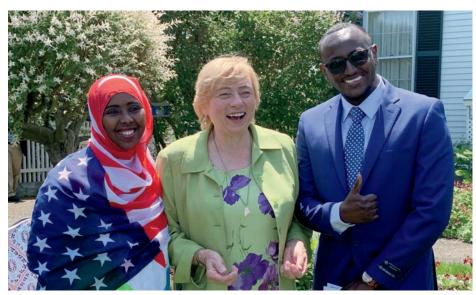
Adele Ngoy and models

Photo by Tsukroff Photography





Lucie Narukundo, owner of Moriah Store, at 364 Cumberland Avenue, Portland.



Governor Mills with Djibouti refugees Araksan Egueh & Hassan Guedi at the first-ever Blaine House celebration of World Refugee Day on June 23, 2019 Photo | Afshin Mahmoodi



Isuken food truck, Lewsiton



Papy Bongibo, president of COCO Maine



Marwa Hassanien, Stephanie Harp, and Angela Okafor



Orson Horchler explores what it means to be a "Mainer" Photo | Titi de Baccarat



Claudette Ndayininahaze and Abusana Micky Bondo, co-founders of In Her Presence, with board members Katlyn Buckingham and Baba Ly.



Bénédicte Wonganombe

Photo | Tom Bell



Mufalo Chitam, Laura DeDoes, Deqa Dhalac, Marina Nahimana, Ghomri Rostampour



OVER TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE GATHERED MARCH 23 IN AUGUSTA'S MILL PARK to stand together against violence and hatred. Organized by the Capital Area New Mainer's Project (CANMP).



Diane Nyagasaza , Solange Mutunzi , Lise Karara , Aline Mutware, Lucie Narukundo, Betty Mucyo , Grace Sebaziga and Aline Mwamikazi



South Sudanese Soccer



Nsiona Nguizani helps a family unpack in Brunswick August 15, 2019 - Expo Move out day.



Maine's Congressman Jared Golden celebrates 'History in the Making' with Lewis-

Adele Weaver and Yenenesh Wilson serve coffee at Ethiopian New Year celebration.



The Nuer Community of Maine gathered in Portland to commemorate the December 2013 massacre in Juba, South Sudan



Alicia Roberts, Director of Human Resources, Jacquelyn Murphy, Senior Branch Manager Of Middle Street Branch, cPort CEO Gene Ardito (with giant scissors in hand!), Portland Public Schools Superintendent Xavier Botana, Portland Chamber of Commerce CEO Quincy Hentzel, Immigrant Welcome Center Executive Director Alain Nahimana Photo | Hamid Karimian @OPENVISIONSTUDIOS



Mainers gather in support of Sudan on June 10, 2019

### **AMJAMBO AFRICA!**

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**Amjambo Africa!** welcomes letters to the editor, notices of local events, photographs, and suggestions for future stories.

Contributions are published at the discretion of the editor and as space allows.

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## What is the U.S. Census, and Should I Participate?

By Stephanie Harp and Kathreen Harrison

Every 10 years, the U.S. conducts a census to count every single person living in this country, and the 2020 Census begins in March. Between March 12 and 20, each home will receive an invitation to answer a simple questionnaire; you may choose to answer online, by mail, or by phone. All information is kept confidential. By law, Census data may be used only for statistics and nothing else.

Census results determine the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives for the next 10 years, based on population. Maine currently has two Congressional districts. If the Census shows that a state's population has increased, that state may be able to add additional Representatives. (Each state always has two U.S. Senators, regardless of population.) Census statistics also determine how each area of Maine is represented in the State House in Augusta.

"Representation matters!" said Mufalo Chitam, Executive Director of Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC). "Participation in the Census will ensure that immigrants are represented in Maine." U.S. Census Bureau provides translated web pages and guides in 59 non-English languages, including American Sign Language, as well as guides in Braille and large print for residents with sight impairment.

Federal and state governments use Census statistics about population to distribute more than \$675 billion in funds, grants, and support that is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other programs. In FY2016, for example, Maine received \$4,114,357,289 through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census."The federal government will base funding for social services for the next 10 years on the 2020 Census numbers, which means that if you or your children are not included in the upcoming Census, social services for so many – children, the elderly, the disabled, for example – won't be properly funded in Maine's towns and cities," said South Portland City Councilor Deqa Dhalac. "Many children of color were not counted in the last Census, and budgets for social services were negatively impacted. It's important to be counted, to be included as part of the Maine community. Do you want to be included, or left out? And remember, the Census is anonymous."

Many people may be concerned about the privacy of the information on the Census, but Title 13 of the U.S. Code prevents the Census Bureau from releasing any identifiable information, not even to law enforcement or the courts. The National Archives and Records Administration, which maintains Census records, is not allowed to release it for 72 years. If Census Bureau employees violate their oath to protect private information, they could be fined up to \$250,000 and jailed for up to five years.

You are not mandated to answer any question about your immigration status, but you must not give untrue answers. This makes it safe for immigrants to take part in the Census. If we do not get counted, we will be denying ourselves – and especially our children –

proper representation and other funding due to us.



— Angela Okafor, Immigration attorney and Bangor City Councilor

The Census is mandated in Article II of the U.S. Constitution. It has been conducted every 10 years since 1790 to count all residents, including non-citizens and undocumented immigrants. This year, following a schedule, the Census Bureau will work to educate people about the Census, send invitations to answer the Census, and send reminder letters to answer the Census. Households that haven't answered by the end of March will receive a reminder postcard, followed by a reminder letter and a paper copy of the questionnaire, and another reminder postcard. If the Census Bureau still hasn't received the information, a Census worker will follow-up in person and come to your home.

"It's not only important that all people are counted, but it's critical that all immigrants are counted," said Claude Rwaganje, Executive Director of ProsperityME. "Most asylum seekers' eyes are on their pending applications, and they may think that the Census doesn't concern them, but it does. I urge all immigrants to participate."

Census results impact how each state is represented in Congress and what resources states can receive from the federal government. For every child that is not counted, Maine could potentially lose \$16,400 in federal funding over a 10-year period, according to Morgan Hynd, Director of The Bingham Program. Historically, children under age five, people of color, tribal nations, people in rural communities, and people experiencing homelessness have been undercounted in Maine.

Fourteen nonprofits have been awarded grants by Maine Census Outreach Fund 2020 (MCOF 2020) to support participation in the Census. This is the first time that Maine philanthropies have worked together to support Census work, which will help to inform future Census outreach efforts in 2030 and beyond. MCOF 2020 is a collaborative funding effort supported by the Maine Philanthropy Center, which pooled \$170,000 from different philanthropies that make grants in Maine, including The Betterment Fund, The Bingham Program, Broad Reach Fund, The Doree Taylor Foundation, Bank of America N.A., Trustee, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Health Access Foundation, and Sam L. Cohen Foundation. Nonfunding partners include: Maine Philanthropy Center, Maine Women's Fund, and United Way of Greater Portland.

The nonprofits that were awarded grants are Gateway Community Services Maine; Mano en Mano / Hand in Hand; League of Women Voters of Maine – Education Fund; Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta; Maine Access Immigrant Network (MAIN); Maine Adult Education Association; Maine Children's Alliance; Maine Equal Justice; Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition; Preble Street; Rural Community Action Ministry; Sunrise County Economic Council; Tri-County Mental Health Services; and YWCA Central Maine. Grant-funded activities include a variety of outreach efforts, such as going door to door, distributing flyers, hosting workshops, and conducting so-

cial media campaigns. On February 23, Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) filmed a PSA to promote participation in the Census with 16 community members and

elected officials.

### WHAT'S AN ASYLUM SEEKER?

Asylum is a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or at the border who meet the international law definition of a "refugee." The United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol define a refugee as a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future "on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." Congress incorporated this definition into U.S. immigration law in the Refugee Act of 1980.

As a signatory to the 1967 Protocol, and through U.S. immigration law, the United States has legal obligations to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees. The Refugee Act established two paths to obtain refugee status—either from abroad as a resettled refugee or in the United States as an asylum seeker.

### AMJAMBOAFRICA.COM

# FRENCH TRANSLATION UNE INVASION DE CRIQUETS MENACE L'ÉCONOMIE DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'EST

Par Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

Les Nations Unies ont annoncé que des nuées de millions de criquets sont en train de ravager les récoltes au Kenya, en Ouganda, en Tanzanie, en Somalie, et en Ethiopie, et le souci grandit que cette infestation va sérieusement empirer les conditions en Afrique de l'Est selon l'agence de presse Associated Press. Face au phénomène, les gouvernements de cette région travaillent sans interruption afin de contenir et d'éradiquer cette catastrophe. L'Ouganda a réuni son Cabinet le 10 février dernier après que l'invasion massive ait atteint le territoire et a celui-ci annoncé la mobilisation de forces militaires et de civils afin de pulvériser des pesticides dans le but de contenir l'épidémie. Le Cabinet a aussi proposé de faire des pulvérisations aériennes par hélicoptères, ce qui parait-il serait une façon efficace de combattre une catastrophe de ce genre.

De fortes pluies récentes (et rares en Afrique de l'Est) ont aggravé l'invasion de criquets dans la région. Les chercheurs experts alertent que le changement climatique causera plus de pluies abondantes dans un avenir proche, et ils ajoutent qu'il est crucial de contenir l'invasion des criquets avant ces nouvelles précipitations—sinon les insectes profiteront de la végétation fraîche et se multiplieront d'une manière exponentielle.

L'Agence des Etats-Unis pour le Développement International rapporte qu'une infestation de criquets dans le désert s'est intensifiée depuis juin 2019 en Ethiopie, envahissant presque 581 000 hectares de cultures et de pâturages. En moyenne, une nuée de crickets dans le désert peut parcourir jusqu'à 150 kilomètres par jour et un essaim peut consommer à lui seul autant de nourriture que l'équivalent d'environ 35 000 personnes en une journée, selon l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture.

Le changement climatique a causé le mouvement de migration humaine en Afrique de l'Est, et le Secrétaire Général adjoint pour les Affaires Humanitaires Mark Lowcock craint que les 12 millions de personnes qui font déjà face à l'insécurité alimentaire dans cette région auront du mal à supporter cette nouvelle calamité qui sera aussi susceptible d'apporter des maladies.

Les chercheurs avertissent aussi que les essaims menacent désormais de se propager au Soudan du Sud où des millions de personnes meurent de faim après des décennies de guerre civile. La Tanzanie a également été touchée par l'invasion de criquets sur ses terres et utilise trois avions pour vaporiser des pesticides, selon le journal anglais, The Guardian. La pulvérisation aérienne de pesticides est le moyen le plus efficace pour enrayer ce fléau mais tous ces pays manquent de ressources et n'ont pas les finances pour se procurer ces avions indispensables.

Selon les spécialistes du changement climatique, les pluies exceptionnelles qui se sont abattues sur la péninsule arabique dans le désert Oman après la formation d'un cyclone au-dessus de l'océan Indien en décembre 2019 étaient les conditions idéales pour favoriser la reproduction du criquet. La chaleur et l'humidité sont les deux facteurs qui expliquent la prolifération de ces insectes.

Les chercheurs craignent que les zones de reproduction principales pour les criquets soient dans une région de la Somalie contrôlée par les groups extrémistes Al Shabab et que, par conséquent, il sera très difficile d'endiguer l'invasion à sa source: un seul essaim peut en effet contenir plus de 150 millions de criquets par km carré de terres agricoles, couvrant un espace similaire à 250 terrains de football, selon les autorités régionales qui ont parlé avec le journal The Guardian.

### C'EST QUOI, LE RECENSEMENT AMÉRICAIN, ET EST-IL SANS RISQUE?

Par Stephanie Harp

Tous les 10 ans, les Etats-Unis font un recensement afin de compter chaque individu résidant dans le pays, et le recensement de 2020 commencera en mars. Entre les dates du 12 au 20 mars, chaque foyer sera invité à répondre à un simple questionnaire; vous aurez le choix de répondre en ligne, par email, ou par téléphone. Toute information reçue sera gardée confidentielle. La loi assure que les données du recensement ne peuvent être utilisées que comme statistiques et rien d'autre.

Les résultats du recensement déterminent le nombre de sièges que chaque état peut avoir au Congrès des Etats-Unis pour les 10 prochaines années, selon la population; le Maine est représenté actuellement par deux districts au Congrès. Si le recensement établit que la population de l'état a augmenté, cet état peut alors ajouter des Représentants supplémentaires. (Chaque état a toujours deux Sénateurs américains, quelque soit la population.) Les statistiques du recensement déterminent aussi comment chaque région du Maine sera représentée à la Chambre des Représentants à Augusta.

"La représentation est importante!" insiste Mufalo Chitam, Directeur Exécutif de Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC).

"La participation au recensement garantira que les immigrants soient représentés dans le Maine." Le Bureau de Recensement américain offre des pages internet et des guides traduits en 59 langues autres que l'anglais, y compris la langue des signes américaine, ainsi que des guides en braille et en gros caractères.

Le gouvernement utilise ces données statistiques de recensement de la population afin de distribuer plus de 675 milliards de dollars en subventions, bourses et aides distribuées aux écoles, hôpitaux, routes, travaux publics, et autres programmes. En 2016, par exemple, le Maine a reçu 4 114 357 289 dollars grâce à 55 programmes créés d'après les données dérivées du recensement de 2010. "Le gouvernement fédéral déterminera quels fonds donner aux services sociaux pour les 10 prochaines années selon les résultats du recensement de 2020, ce qui signifie que si vous ou vos enfants n'êtes pas inclus dans ce recensement, les services sociaux pour de nombreuses personnes—les enfants, les personnes âgées, les handicapés, par exemple—ne seront pas justement financés dans les communes et les villes du Maine," a déclaré Deqa Dhalac, Conseiller à la ville de South Portland. "Beaucoup d'enfants de couleur n'avaient pas été comptés dans le dernier recensement, et par conséquent les budgets pour les services sociaux avaient subi un impact négatif. Il est très important d'être compté, et inclus comme faisant partie de la communauté du Maine. Voulez—vous être inclus, ou laissé de côté? Et souvenez-vous que le recensement est anonyme."

Beaucoup de gens peuvent s'inquiéter de la confidentialité de l'information sur le recensement, mais le titre 13 du Code des Etats-Unis empêche le Bureau du Recensement de communiquer toute information privée, même aux services de la police ou de la justice. L'Administration des archives nationales et des documents, qui conserve les dossiers du recensement, n'a pas le droit de partager cette information pendant 72 ans. Si les employés du Bureau du Recensement ne respectent pas le serment qu'ils ont prêté de protéger l'information privée et la règle de confidentialité, ils pourront recevoir une amende s'élevant à 250 000 dollars et être mis en prison pour une durée maximum de 5

Angela Okafor, avocate de l'immigration, propriétaire d'un commerce, et Conseillère à la ville de Bangor, a dit, "Vous n'êtes pas obligé(e) de répondre à toute question sur le statut de votre immigration, mais vous ne devez pas donner de fausses réponses. Cela permet aux immigrants de participer au recensement en toute sécurité. Si nous ne sommes pas comptés, nous nous priverons-et surtout nos enfants-d'une bonne représentation et d'autres bénéfices financiers auxquels on aurait le droit."

Le recensement est un mandat dans l'Article II de la Constitution américaine. Il a eu lieu tous les 10 ans depuis 1790 afin de compter tous les résidents, y compris les non-citoyens et les immigrants sans-papiers. Cette année, le Bureau du Recensement suivra un emploi du temps et s'efforcera d'éduquer les gens à propos du recensement, enverra des invitations et des lettres pour rappeler aux gens de répondre au recensement. Les foyers qui n'auront pas répondu avant la fin du mois de mars recevront une carte postale de rappel, suivie d'une lettre de rappel et d'une version papier du questionnaire, et enfin une autre carte de rappel. Si le Bureau du Recensement n'a toujours pas reçu l'information, un employé se présentera chez vous pour faire suite.

"Il est non seulement important que tous les citoyens soient comptés, mais il est crucial que tous les immigrants soient aussi comptés," a déclaré Claude Rwaganje, Directeur Exécutif de ProsperityME. "La plupart des demandeurs d'asile surveillent leurs demandes en attente, et ils peuvent penser à tort que le recensement ne les concerne pas. J'encourage tous les immigrants à participer." Les résultats du recensement feront évoluer le nombre des représentants par État au Congrès des États-Unis avec cette information, et décider de quelles ressources les états pourront bénéficier et recevoir du gouvernement fédéral. Pour chaque enfant qui n'est pas compté, le Maine pourrait peut-être perdre 14 400 dollars en fonds fédéraux pendant une période de dix ans, d'après Morgan Hynd, Directeur du programme Bingham

On a attribué des bourses à quatorze associations à but non-lucratif afin de soutenir la participation au recensement. Celles-ci sont Gateway Community Services Maine; Hand in Hand Mano en Mano; League of Women Voters of Maine - Education Fund; Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta; Maine Access Immigrant Network (MAIN); Maine Adult Education Association; Maine Children's Alliance; Maine Equal Justice; Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition; Preble Street; Rural Community Action Ministry; Sunrise County Economic Council; Tri-County Mental Health Services; YWCA Central Maine. Parmi les activités financées par ces bourses, il y aura une variété d'initiatives de communication, telles que faire du porte à porte, distribuer des brochures, animer des ateliers, et organiser des campagnes de médias sociaux.

Les partenaires du financement du Maine Census Outreach Fund 2020 (MCOF 2020) sont: The Betterment Fund, The Bingham Program, Broad Reach Fund, The Doree Taylor Foundation, Bank of America N.A., Trustee, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Health Access Foundation, and Sam L. Cohen Foundation. Non-funding partners include: Maine Philanthropy Center, Maine Women's Fund, and United Way of Greater Portland.



## Locust Outbreak May Have Heavy Cost in East Africa

The United Nations has announced that billions of locusts are raiding crops in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, and Ethiopia, and fears are growing that the infestation will seriously worsen conditions in East Africa, according to the Associated Press.



Governments in the region are working around the clock to contain the calamity. After the outbreak reached Ugandan territory, Uganda convened a Cabinet meeting on February 10 and announced the mobilization of military forces, as well as civilians, to spray pesticides aimed at containing the outbreak. The Cabinet also proposed aerial spraying by helicopters, which they said is an effective way to fight a calamity of this sort.

The locust outbreak in the region, in part, was exacerbated by recent heavy rains, which are unusual for East Africa. Experts warn that climate change will bring increasing amounts of heavy rains. They say containment of the locust outbreak before more rain falls will be crucial; otherwise the insects will benefit from fresh vegetation and will multiply exponentially.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reports that, since June 2019, a desert locust infestation has intensified in Ethiopia, affecting nearly 581,000 acres of cropland and pasture. On average, a desert locust swarm can travel up to 93 miles per day. Even a small swarm can consume the same amount of food in one day as approximately 35,000 people, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) reports.

Climate change has led to human migration movement in East Africa, and United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock is concerned that the 12 million people who are facing food insecurity in East Africa will have difficulty coping with the additional calamity of the locust outbreak. The UNFAO has expressed concern that the outbreak will bring disease.

Experts also warn that the locust outbreak is heading to South Sudan, where millions of people are starving after decades of civil war. Tanzania has also detected the locust outbreak on their soil. They have hired three airplanes for aerial spraying, according to the Guardian. Aerial spraying is considered the most effective way to contain this outbreak, but not all countries are able to afford the necessary airplanes.

Climate scholars blame the unusual heavy rains, coupled with a powerful cyclone off Somalia in December 2019. The locusts are believed to come from the Arabian Peninsula, where heavy rains in the Oman Desert provided conducive breeding conditions for these insects.

Scientists are concerned that the primary breeding grounds for the locusts may be in an area of Somalia controlled by al-Shabab Islamist extremist groups, and that therefore containing the outbreak at the source will be a challenge. A single swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer of farmland, an area the size of almost 250 football fields, according to regional authorities who spoke to the Guardian.

### **SWAHILI TRANSLATION**

### MULIPUKO WA NZIGE UNAWEZA GHARAMIA Sana Afrika ya Mashariki

Naye Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

Umoja wa kiMataifa umetangaza kuwa mabilioni ya nzige wamevamia mazao nchini Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, na Ethiopia, na hofu inaongezeka kwamba uvamizi huo utaendelea kuwa mubaya zaidi katika Afrika Mashariki, kwa mujibu wa Jumuiya ya Wanahabari/Associate Press.

Serikali katika mkoa huo zinajitahidi kutumika kando kando ya saa ili kudhibiti janga hilo. Uganda iliitisha baraza la mawaziri mnamo tarehe 10 Februari baada ya janga hilo kugonga mlango wa Uganda na kutangaza uhamasishaji wa jeshi pamoja na raia kwa kunyunyiza dawa za kuua wadudu ikiwa na lengo la kudhibiti muripuko huo. Baraza la Mawaziri pia lilipendekeza kumwaga dawa kutoka angani kwa njia ya helikopta, ambayo walisema ni njia bora ya kupigana na janga la aina hii.

Mlipuko huo wa nzige katika mkoa huo uliongezwa kwa upande mmoja na mvua nzito za hivi karibuni, ambazo sio za kawaida kwa Afrika Mashariki. Wataalam wanaonya kwamba mabadiliko ya hali ya hewa italeta mapema au baadaye mvua nzito, na wanasema tena kwamba kukabiliana na mlipuko huo wa nzige kabla ya mvua zaidi kunyesha itakuwa muhimu – Kama sivyo, wadudu hao watakuya faidika na mimea michanga inayo chipuka na kuongezeka zaidi na zaidi.

Shirika la Maendeleo la Umoja wa Mataifa (USAID) linaripoti kwamba tangu Juni 2019 mlipuko wa nzige jangwani umeongezeka sana nchini Ethiopia, na kuathiri ekari 581,000 za shamba na malisho. Kwa wastani, kundi la nzige la jangwa linaweza kusafiri hadi maili 93 kwa siku na hata kundi dogo linaweza kula kwa siku moja kiasi kama hicho cha chakula kwa watu takriban 35,000, kutokana na ripoti ya Shirika la Chakula na Kilimo la Umoja wa Mataifa(UNFAO).

Mabadiliko ya hali ya hewa yamesababisha harakati za uhamiaji wa watu katika Afrika Mashariki, na makamu wa Katibu Mkuu wa Umoja wa Mataifa anayeshughulikia masuala ya Kibinadamu, Mark Lowcock ana wasiwasi kwamba watu wale milioni 12 ambao wanakabiliwa na ukosefu wa chakula katika Afrika Mashariki watapata shida kukabiliana na janga la nyongeza la kuripuka kwa nzige. Shirika la Chakula na Kilimo la Umoja wa Mataifa(UNFAO). imeelezea wasiwasi wao kwamba mulipuko huo wa nzige utaleta magonjwa.

Wataalam pia wameonya kwamba mlipuko wa nzige unaelekea Sudani Kusini ambapo mamilioni ya watu wana njaa baada ya miongo kadhaa ya vita vya wenyewe kwa wenyewe. kwa mujibu wa The Guardian Tanzania pia imegundua mlipuko wa nzige kwenye ardhi yao na wameajiri ndege tatu kwa kunyunyizia dawa angani. Kunyunyizia angani inachukuliwa kuwa njia bora zaidi ya kudhibiti mlipuko huu wa nzige lakini sio nchi zote zinazoweza kuhusu ndege zinazofaa.

Wasomi wa hali ya hewa wamekubaliana kuhusu mvua nzito zisiyo za kawaida na kimbunga kikali huko Somali mnamo Desemba 2019. Mulipuko wa nzige unaaminika ulitoka katika Kisiwa cha Arabia ambapo mvua kubwa katika Jangwa la Oman zilitoa hali nzuri za kuzaliana kwa wadudu hawa.

Wanasayansi wana wasiwasi kwamba msingi wa kuzaliana kwa nzige unaweza kuwa katika eneo la Somalia linalodhibitiwa na vikundi vya Waislamu wenye msimamo mkali vya Al Shabab na kwa hivyo itakuwa changamoto kuhusu mulipuko kutokea kwa chanzo chake. Kundi moja linaweza kuwemo na nzige wapata milioni 150 kwa mraba kilomita moja ya shamba, eneo ambalo ni ukubwa kama wa viwanja karibu 250 wa mpira, kulingana na wakuu wa mkoa ambao walizungumza na the Guardian.

### NI NINI SENSA YA MAREKANI, NA JE IKO SALAMA?

Naye Stephanie Harp

Kwa kila miaka 10, Marekani hufanya sensa ili kuhesabu kila mtu anayeishi katika nchi hii, na sensa ya 2020 itaanza mu Machi. Kati ya Machi tarehe 12 na 20, kila nyumba itapokea mwaliko wa kujibu kwa dodoso rahisi; unaweza kuchagua kujibu kwa mtandao, kwa barua, au kwa simu., habari zote zinachungwa kwa siri. Kwa sheria data ya sensa inaweza kutumikishwa tu kwa takwimu na hakuna kingine.

Matokeo ya sensa yanaamua idadi ya viti kwa kila jimbo katika Bunge la Marekani kwa miaka 10 ijayo, kwa kuzingatia kwa idadi ya watu; Maine kwa sasa ina wilaya mbili za kongamano. Ikiwa sensa inaonyesha kwamba idadi ya watu imeongezeka, jimbo hilo linaweza kuongeza mawakilishi wengine. (Marekani kila Jimbo lina Seneta wawili, bila kujali idadi ya watu.) Takwimu za sensa pia zinaamua jinsi kila eneo la Maine linawakilishwa katika Bunge la Jimbo huko Augusta.

"Maswala ya uwakilishi ni muhimu!" Alisema Mufalo Chitam, Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa Shirikisho la Haki za Wahamiaji wa Maine (MIRC). "Kushiriki katika sensa kutahakikisha kwamba wahamiaji wanawakilishwa katika Maine." Offisi ya Sensa ya Marekani hutoa kurasa za tovuti zilizotafsiriwa pamoja na miongozo katika lugha 59 zisio za Kiingereza, ikiwemo Lugha ya alama, pamoja mwandiko wa vipofu (braille) na maan-

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dishi yenye chapa kubwa.

Serikali ya shirikisho na serikali za ma jimbo zinatumia takwimu za sensa kuhusu idadi ya watu ajili ya kugawa zaidi ya dola bilioni 675 kwa fedha, misaada, na msaada kwa gharama za shule, hospitali, mabarabara, kazi za umma, na mipangilio mengine. Katika FY2016, kwa mfano, Maine alipokea \$ 4,114,357,289 kupitia mipango 55 ya matumizi ya shirikisho iliyoongozwa na data inayotokana na sensa ya 2010. "Serikali ya shirikisho italaza musingi wa ufadhili wa fedha kwa huduma za kijamii kwa miaka 10 ijayo kutokana na Sensa ya 2020, ambayo inamaanisha kuwa ikiwa wewe au watoto wako hawajumuishwa katika sensa inayokuja, huduma za kijamii kwa wengi - watoto, wazee, walemavu, kwa mfano - hawatadhaminiwa vyema katika miji na miji midogo ya Maine, "alisema Diwani wa Jiji la South Portland Deqa Dhalac. "Watoto wengi wa rangi ingine hawakuhesabiwa katika sensa ya mwisho, na bajeti za huduma za kijamii ziliathiriwa vibaya. Ni muhimu kuhesabiwa, ili kujumuishwa kama mojawapo wa jamii ya Maine. Je! Unataka kujumuishwa, au kuachwa inje? Na kumbuka kwamba sensa inalindwa siri. '

Watu wengi wanaweza kuwa na wasiwasi juu ya ufaragha wa habari juu ya sensa, lakini Kifungo cha 13 cha Msimbo wa Marekani unazuia Ofisi ya sensa kutoa habari yoyote inayoweza kutambuliwa, hata kwa watekelezaji wa sheria au kwenye korti. Utawala wa Nyaraka za Kitaifa na Rekodi, ambao unachunga rekodi za Sensa, hairuhusiwi kutoa rekodi hiyo kwa miaka 72. Ikiwa wafanyakazi wa Ofisi ya sensa watakiuka kiapo chao kwa kulinda habari za kibinafsi, wanaweza kutozwa faini hadi \$ 250,000 na kufungwa jela hadi miaka mitano.

Angela Okafor, mwanasheria wakili wa uhamiaji, mfanya biashara, na Diwani wa Jiji la Bangor, alisema, "Hauamriwi kujibu swali lolote lile juu ya hali yako ya uhamiaji, lakini haupaswe kutoa majibu yasiyo ya kweli. Hii inafanya wahamiaji kushiriki katika sensa kwa usalama. Ikiwa hatuhesabiwi, tutakuwa kataliwa wenyewe - na haswa watoto wetu - uwakilishi sahihi na ufadhili mwingine ikiwa ni kwa sababu yetu."

Sensa inaamriwa katika Kifungu cha II cha Katiba ya Marekani. Nayo imefanywa kila baada ya miaka 10 tangu 1790 kuhesabu wakazi wote, pamoja na wasio raia na wahamiaji wasio na vitambulisho halali. Mwaka huu, kufuatia ratiba, Ofisi ya sensa itafanya kazi ya kuwaelimisha watu juu ya sensa, kutuma mialiko kujibu sensa, na kutuma barua za ukumbusho kwa kujibu sensa. Kaya za nyumba ambazo hazikujibiwa mwishoni mwa Machi zitapokea barua ya ukumbusho, ikifuatiwa na barua ya ukumbusho na nakala ya karatasi ya maswali, na kadi nyingine ya ukumbusho. Ikiwa Ofisi ya sensa bado haijapata habari hii, mfanya kazi wa sensa atafuatilia mwenyewe na kuja nyumbani kwako. Ofisi ya sensa ya Marekani inatoa kurasa za tovuti zilizotafsiriwa na miongozo katika lugha 59 zisizo za Kiingereza, pamoja na Lugha ya Ishara ya Amerika, na miongozo katika maandishi ya maandiko wa vipofu (braille) na maandishi yenye chapa kubwa.

"Sio muhimu tu kwamba watu wote huhesabiwa, lakini ni muhimu zaidi kwa wahamiaji wote kuhesabiwa," alisema Claude Rwaganje, Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa ProsperityME. "Karibu macho ya waomba hifadhi wengi iko kwenye maombi yao ambayo yanasubiri, na kwa hiyo wanaweza kudhani kwamba sensa haiwajali, lakini inajali. Nitawasihi wahamiaji wote kushiriki. "Matokeo ya sensa yataathiri jinsi kila jimbo linavyo wakilishwa katika Bunge na ni rasilimali gani jimbo zinaweza kupokea kutoka kwa serikali ya shirikisho. Kwa kila mtoto ambaye hakuhesabiwa, Maine inaweza kupoteza \$ 16,400 kwa fedha za serikali ya shirikisho kwa kipindi cha miaka kumi, kulingana na Morgan Hynd, Mkurugenzi wa mpango The Bingham Program. Kihistoria, watoto walio chini ya umri wa miaka 5, watu wa rangi, mataifa ya kikabila, watu walio vijijini, na watu wasio na makazi, walikuwa wamepunguzwa kuhesabiwa humu Maine.

Mashirika kumi na nne zisizo za faida zimepewa ruzuku kwa kusaidia ushiriki katika sensa. Hizi ni Gateway Community Services Maine; Hand in Hand Mano en Mano; League of Women Voters of Maine - Education Fund; Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta; Maine Access Immigrant Network (MAIN); Maine Adult Education Association; Maine Children's Alliance; Maine Equal Justice; Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition; Preble Street; Rural Community Action Ministry; Sunrise County Economic Council; Tri-County Mental Health Services; YWCA Central Maine. Shughuli zilizofadhiliwa na ruzuku hizo ni pamoja na juhudi mbali mbali za kutangaza ujumbe, kama vile kwenda mlango kwa mlango, kwa kusambaza vipeperushi, kukaribisha semina, na kuendesha kampeni kwenye vyombo vya habari vya kijamii.

Mashiriki wa fedha wa Maine Census Outreach Fund 2020 (MCOF 2020) miongoni mwao wako: The Betterment Fund, The Bingham Program, Broad Reach Fund, The Doree Taylor Foundation, Bank of America N.A., Trustee, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Health Access Foundation, and Sam L. Cohen Foundation. Non-funding partners include: Maine Philanthropy Center, Maine Women's Fund, and United Way of Greater Portland.

### City of Portland Announces First Round of Awards to Community Organizations that Assisted During "Expo Summer"

The City of Portland received generous contributions of over \$900,000 from approximately 4,000 donors in Maine, and beyond, during the summer of 2019 to assist 449 asylum seekers, primarily from Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo, who arrived in Maine and were housed in the Portland Expo between June 12 and August 15. The arrivals had traveled for months – and in some cases years – to escape persecution in Africa. Almost all had children in tow.

On February 4, the city announced awards of more than \$140,000 to 11 community partner organizations, as part of an initial round of funding drawn from the donations and intended to help reimburse organizations for significant expenses they incurred during the "Expo Summer." Using FEMA eligibility guidelines, Brendan O'Connell, Portland's Finance Director, reviewed the 13 applications for reimbursement the city had received. City Manager Jon Jennings made final decisions on the awards.

The following organizations received awards in the first round:

Catholic Charities of Maine (\$5,675)

Greater Portland Health (\$4,671)

Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center (\$4,900)

Greater Portland Transit District – METRO (\$6,075)

LearningWorks (\$480)

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (\$6,178)

Maine Emergency Management Agency – MEMA (\$11,946)

Portland Public Schools (\$15,108)

The Emergency Action Network – TEAN (\$11,765)

Town of Brunswick (\$70,000)

Wayside Food Programs (\$5,000)

The donations are also being used to reimburse the city for the 24/7 emergency family shelter operation at the Portland Expo. The Expo shelter was the first time the city of Portland had run a 24/7 emergency family shelter operation.

Some nonprofits and immigrant-led organizations that stepped forward to help provide services for the new arrivals have not yet applied for reimbursement. Sources familiar with the organizations seen working at the EXPO on a daily basis throughout the summer suggest that a revised process for the second round of awards might elicit more applications, such as a tailor-made application, rather than the generic FEMA application; a point person to answer questions by telephone or appointment; and a reimbursement committee that is representative of the applicant pool. As of press time, no date had been announced for dispersal of the second round of awards. However, Jessica Grondin, Director of Communications and Digital Services of the City of Portland, confirmed that applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Asylum seekers continue to arrive in Maine, in a trickle during some weeks and with a larger number of arrivals in others; almost all are families with children. Over 400 individuals have come to Portland since August 15, bringing to 857 the total number of arrivals since June 9, according to Grondin. "We expect the arrivals to continue," she added. Federal law prevents asylum seekers from working to support themselves and their families for many months, so they are dependent on help from others. Immigrant-led organizations and nonprofits, along with individual donors, continue to try to fill gaps in services and support, investing large amounts of time and money in helping the new arrivals.

The City of Portland's website reads: "Nonprofit organizations who assisted the City of Portland at the Expo Center during the influx of asylum seekers from mid-June 2019 through mid-September 2019 are eligible to submit an application for reimbursement. Eligible expenditures are divided into two categories. Primary (food and shelter) and Secondary (other)." According to Grondin, "The first priority of the City remains ensuring the donated funds are used for shelter and basic necessities for asylum seekers, with second priority to reimburse community partners who have assisted in the effort."

Organizations interested in receiving information on future reimbursement opportunities should email ASDonations@portlandmaine.gov with the name of the organization and a contact person.

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### SOMALI TRANSLATION

### AYAXA KUSOO DUULAY AFRICA WAXAA LAGAYAABAA INUU UGAYSTO DHIBAATO

Waxa qoray Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

Qaramada Midoobay ayaa ku dhawaaqday in balaayiin ayax ah ay burburinayaan midhaha beeraha ee wadamanda Kenya, Ugaandha, Tansaaniya, Soomaaliya, iyo Itoobiya, waxaana laga baqayaa in faafitaankani uu sii xumeeyo xaalada Bariga Afrika, sida ay qortay wakaalada wararka asooshiyet beres AP.

Dawladaha deeganadaas ayaa ka shaqeynaya sidii loo xakameyn lahaa musiibada. Yugaandha ayaa shir uqabatay golaha wasiirada bishii Feberaayo 10 kadib markii dhibaatadan bilaabatay oo uu gaadhay dhulka Yugaandha waxayna ku dhawaaqeen abaabul ciidamada milatariga iyo sidoo kale shacabka inay ku buufiyaan sunta cayayaanka taas oo looga golleeyahay xakameynta cudurka. Golaha wasiirradu waxay kaloo soo jeediyeen in ay isticmaalaan diyaaradaha qumaatiga u kaca ee helikobtarka, kuwaas oo ay sheegeen inay tahay hab wax ku ool ah oo lagula dagaallamo masiibada noocaan ah.

Ayaxa ka dillaacay deegaankaas ayaa qayb ka ah roobabkii cuslaa ee dhawaantan da'ay, kuwaas oo aan ahayn wax kadhaca Bariga Afrika. Khubaradu waxay ka digayaan in isbeddelka cimiladu uu keeni doono roobab culus ama hada ama dhawaan, waxayna sheegeen in xakameynta ayaxa ka hor intaanuu bilaaban roobku ay tahay mid muhiim noqon doonta - haddii kale cayayaanka ayaa ka faa'iideysan doona doogga cusub waxayna usii badan doonaan si aad ah.

Hay'adda Mareykanka ee Horumarinta Caalamiga ah (USAID) ayaa soo warinaysa in laga soo bilaabo bishii lixaad 2019 in ayax duulaan ah uu si xoog ah ugusoo batay Itoobiya, taas oo saamaysey ku dhawaad 581,000 oo dhul beereed iyo daaq ah. Isku celcelis ahaan, ayaxa duufanta lasocda ayaa safri kara ilaa 93 mayl maalinkasta oo xitaa xayawaanka yari wuxuu cuni karaa isla maalintaas inta ay cunilahad qiyaastii 35,000 oo qof, sidaana waxa sheegay Ururka Cuntada iyo Beeraha ee Qaramada Midoobay (UNFAO).

Isbedelka cimilada ayaa sababay qixitaanka dadka ee Bariga Afrika, Xoghayaha Guud ee Qaramada Midoobay u qaabilsan arrimaha bini'aadannimada Mark Lowcock wuxuu ka walaacsan yahay in 12ka milyan ee ay soo food saartay cunno yari ka jirta Bariga Afrika ay ku adkaan doonto la tacaalidda masiibada dheeriga ah ee ayaxa ee dillaacday. UNFAO waxay walaac ka muujisay in faafitaanka ayaxa uu keenayo cuduro.

Khubaradu waxay kaloo ka digayaan in ayaxan duulaan ka ah uu kusii jeedo Koonfurta Suudaan halkaas oo malaayiin dad ahi ay gaajoonayaan ka dib tobanaan sano oo dagaal sokeeye ah. Tansaaniya ayaa sidoo kale ogaatay in ayax ku faafay dhulkooda waxayna shaqaaleeyeen seddex diyaaradood si ay uga buufiyaan hawada, sida uu sheegay Guardian. Buufinta hawada waxaa loo arkaa habka ugu waxtarka badan ee lagu xakameyn karo faafitaankaan laakiin wadamada oo dhan ma awoodo inay diyaarsadaan diyaaradaha muhiimka ah.

Aqoonyahanada Cimilada ayaa ku amaanay roobabka mahiigaanka ah oo aan caadiga ahayn oo ay weheliyaan duufaano xoog leh oo ka da'ay Soomaaliya bishii Diseembar 2019. Ayaxa ayaa la rumeysan yahay inuu ka yimaaday Jasiiradda Carabta halkaas oo roobab culus ay ka de'een saxaraha Cummaan kuwaasoo abuuray cimilo fiican oo ay ku tarmaan cayayaankaasi.

Saynisyahanada ayaa ka walaacsan in Meesha uu ku tarmayo ayaxu ay noqon karto meelo kamida Soomaaliya oo ay maamusho kooxaha xagjirka ah ee Al-shabaab sidaas darteedna ay caqabad ku noqon doonto xakameynta meesha uu ayaxu kutarmayo. Hal koox ayaa ka kakooban 150 milyan oo ayax ah kaasoo kufadhiya hal meel. Ama kiiloomitir dhul beereed ah, oo ah dhul ballaadhkiisu yahay 250 garoon kubadeed, sida ay sheegeen mas'uuliyiinta gobolka oo la hadlay Guardian.

### WAA MAXAY TIRAKOOBKA MAREYKANKA, OO MAWAX LAGU KALSOON YAHAY BAA?

Waxaa qoray Stephanie Harp

10 kii sanoba Mareykanku wuxuu sameeyaa tirakoob si loogu tiriyo qof kasta oo ku nool dalkan, tirakoobka 2020 wuxuu bilaabmayaa bisha Maarso. Wuxuu socon Inta u dhaxaysa Maarso 12 iyo 20, guri kasta wuxuu heli doonaa waraaq si uu uga jawaabo su'aalo fudud; waxaad dooran kartaa inaad kaga jawaabto internetka, emayl, ama taleefan. Macluumaadka oo dhami waa qarsoodi. Sharci ahaan, xogta tirakoobka waxaa loo isticmaali karaa oo keliya tirakoobka iyo wax kalena looma isticmaali karo.

Natiijooyinka tirakoobka ayaa go'aaminaya tirada kuraasta gobol kasta ee Aqalka Wakiillada Mareykanka 10-ka sano oo soo socota, iyadoo lagu saleynayo tirada dadka; Maine hadda waxay leedahay labo degmo oo Kongarees ah. Haddii tirakoobku muujiyo in tirada dadka gobolka ay korortay, gobolkaas wuxuu heli karaa in loogu daro Wakiilo dheeri ah. (Gobol kastaa had iyo jeer wuxuu leeyahay laba Senatar oo Mareykan ah, iyadoon loo eegayn tirada dadka.) Tirakoobka ayaa sidoo

kale go'aaminaya sida aag kasta oo Maine looga matalo Aqalka Qaranka ee Agustausta.

"Matalaaddu waa muhiim!" ayay tidhi Mufalo Chitam, Agaasimaha Fulinta ee Isbahaysiga Xuquuqda Muhaajiriinta Maine (MIRC). "Kaqeybgalka tirakoobka wuxuu hubin doonaa in soogalootiga lagu matalay Maine." Xafiiska Tirakoobka Mareykanka wuxuu bixiyaa bogag la tarjumay iyo hagitaan 59 luqadood oo aan Ingiriis aheyn, oo ay ku jiraan Luuqadda ishaarada Mareykanka ee dhagoolayaasha, iyo sidoo kale hagitaano far waawayn ah iyo far ladaabici karo.

Dowladaha federaaliga ah iyo kuwa dowlad goboleedku waxay adeegsadaan tirakoobka natiijadiisa ee ku saabsan dadka si ay ugu geybiyaan wax kabadan \$ 675 bilyan oo deeg, iyo taageero ah oo lagu bixiyo iskuulada, isbitaalada, wadooyinka, howlaha guud, iyo barnaamijyada kale. FY2016, tusaale ahaan, Maine waxay heshay \$4,114,357,289 iyada oo loo marayo 55 barnaamijyo kharash garayn federaal ah oo ay hogaaminayaan xog laga soo qaatay tirakoobkii 2010. "Dowladda federaalku waxay ku qiimayn doontaa maalgalinta adeegyada bulshada 10ka sano ee soo socda tirada 2020 ee tirakoobka 2020, taas micnaheedu waa haddii aad Carruurtaada lagu darin Tirakoobka soo socda, adeegyada bulshada ee loogu talagalay dad aad u tiro badan sida - carruurta, waayeelka, naafada, looma maalgelin doono qaabkii larabay in loosiiyo magaalooyinka iyo tuulooyinka, "ayuu yidhi Xildhibaan Dega Dhalac oo South Portland Council ka ah. Carruur badan oo madoow ah ayaan lagu darin tirakoobkii ugu dambeeyay, miisaaniyadaha adeegga bulshada ayaa si xun loo saameeyay. Waa muhiim in la tiriyo, in lagu daro maadaama ay qayb ka yihiin bulshada Maine. Ma rabtaa in lagu daro, ama lagaa tago? Xusuusnowna, Tirakoobka waa mid aan garsoodi ah "

Dad badan ayaa laga yaabaa inay ka walaacaan qarsoodiga macluumaadka ku saabsan tirakoobka, laakiin qaanuunka 13aad ee Xeerka Mareykanka wuxuu ka hor istaagayaa Xafiiska Tirakoobka inuu bixiyo macluumaad lagu aqoonsan karo, xitaa mid loo adeegsado sharciga ama maxkamadaha. Maamulka Kaydinta iyo Diiwaanada Qaranka, oo xafida diiwaannada Tirakoobka, looma ogola inay bixiyaan macluumaad ilaa iyo muddo 72 sano ah. Haddii shaqaalaha Xafiiska Tirakoobka ay ku xadgudbaan dhaarta ay ku dhaarteen in ay ilaaliyaan macluumaadka khaaska ah, waxaa la ganaaxi karaa ilaa \$ 250,000 oo waxaa la xukumayaa ilaa shan sano oo jeel ah.

Angela Okafor, qareenka socdaalka, milkiilaha ganacsiga, iyo xildhibaanka Magaalada Bangor, ayaa tiri, "Kuma qasbnid inaad ka jawaabtid su'aal kasta oo ku saabsan qaabka aad usoogashay maraykanka, laakiin waa inaadan bixin jawaabo aan run ahayn. Tani waxay dan utahay soogalootiga inay ka qeybqaataan Tirakoobka. Haddii aanan istirin, waxaan beenin doonnaa nafsadeena - iyo gaar ahaan carruurteenna - matalaad munaasib ah iyo maalgelinno waa wax anaga nagu xidhan."

Tirakoobka waa wax waajib ah marka la eego qodobka II ee dastuurka Mareykanka. Waxaa la qabtaa 10-kii sanaba mar ilaa 1790 si loo tiriyo dhammaan dadka deggan maraykanka, oo ay ku jiraan kuwa aan ahayn muwaadiniinta iyo muhaajiriinta aan sharciga lahayn. Sanadkan, iyadoo la raacayo jadwalka, Xafiiska Tirakoobka wuxuu ka shaqeyn doonaa inuu dadka ku wacyi geliyo tirakoobka, u diro casuumaad ay uga jawaabaan tirakoobka, oo ay u diraan waraaqo xasuusin ah si ay uga jawaabaan Tirakoobka. Qoysaska aan laga helin jawaab dhamaadka Maarso waxay heli doonaan kaar xusuusin ah, oo ay ku xigayaan warqad xusuusin ah oo ka mid ah foomka su'aalaha, iyo kaar kale oo xasuusin ah. Haddii Xafiiska Tirakoobka wali uusan helin macluumaadka, shaqaale kasocda Tirakoobka ayaa imaan doona gurigaaga. Xafiiska Tirakoobka Mareykanka wuxuu bixiyaa bogag la tarjumay iyo hagitaan 59 luqadood oo aan Ingiriis aheyn, oo ay ku jiraan Luqadda ishaarada Mareykanka ee dhagoolayaasha, iyo sidoo kale hagitaano far waawayn kuqoran lana daabici karo.

"Maaha muhiim in dadka oo dhan la tirinaayo oo kaliya, laakiin waa muhiim in dhamaan dadka soogalootiga ah la tiriyo, "ayuu yiri Claude Rwaganje, Agaasimaha Fulinta ee hay'ada ProsperityME. "Inta badan magangalyo-doonka waxay eegayaan arjiya ay sugayaan, waxaana laga yaabaa inay u maleeyaan in Tirakoobka uusan khusaynin, laakiin wuu quseeyaa. Waxaan ku boorin doonaa dhammaan soogalootiga inay kaqeybqaataan." Natiijooyinka tirakoobka waxay saameyn ku yeelan doonaan sida gobol walba loogu metelo Congress iyo waxa kheyraadka gobollada ay ka heli karaan dowladda federaalka. Ilmo kasta oo aan la tirin, wuxuu ka luminin gobolka Maine \$ 16,400 oo ah maalgalinta federaalka muddo toban sano gudahood ah, sida laga soo xigtay Morgan Hynd, Agaasimaha Barnaamijka Bingham. Taariikh ahaan, carruurta ay da'doodu ka yar tahay 5 sano, dadka midabka leh, dadka kasoo jeeda qabaa'ilka, dadka ku nool bulshooyinka reer miyiga ah, iyo dadka ay la soo daristay hoy la'aanta, Ayaan si sax ah loo tirakoobin Maine.

Afar iyo toban hay'adood ayaa lasiiyay deeq si ay u taageeraan kaqeybgalka tirakoobka. Kuwani waa Gateway Community Services Maine; Hand in Hand Mano en Mano; League of Women Voters of Maine - Education Fund; Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta; Maine Access Immigrant Network (MAIN); Maine Adult Education Association; Maine Children's Alliance; Maine Equal Justice; Maine Immigrants' Rights Coali-

tion; Preble Street; Rural Community Action Ministry; Sunrise County Economic Council; Tri-County Mental Health Services; YWCA Central Maine. Hawlaha ay maalgeliso deeqdu waxaa ka mid noqon doona dadaalo wacyigelineed oo kala duwan, sida garaacidda albaabada, qaybinta waraaqaha, martigelinta aqoon-is-weydaarsiga, iyo qabashada ololayaasha warbaahinta bulshada.

### Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project Hosts Annual CeleSoirée Event March 27



PORTLAND – On Friday, March 27 at 5 p.m., the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) will host its annual fundraising event, CeleSoirée, at Portland Ocean Gateway. The evening features a buffet dinner catered by local immigrant-owned restaurants, live music from diverse cultural traditions, a community spotlight and exciting raffle prizes.

CeleSoirée is ILAP's signature annual event that celebrates immigration through the arts while highlighting the organization's programs and commitment to advancing justice and equity for immigrants in Maine. Each year, it draws more than 400 guests, including friends of ILAP, business and community leaders, elected officials, volunteers and Pro Bono Panel attorneys.

**WHO:** Friends of ILAP, business and community leaders, elected officials, volunteers and Pro Bono Panel attorneys

**WHAT:** CeleSoirée: Celebrating Immigration Through the Arts

WHEN: Friday, March 27, 2020, 5:00pm-8:00pm

**WHERE:** Portland Ocean Gateway, 14 Ocean Gateway Pier, Portland, Maine.

Marking its 16th year, CeleSoirée 2020 will feature dinner by local restaurants Ameera, El Rodeo and Sichuan Kitchen, an opening from Namory Keita, Master Drummer, and a performance by soul/funk dance band BOBA FUNK. Namory Keita is a world-renowned teacher and performer who brings traditional West African drumming from the villages of Guinea to his home in Maine. BOBA FUNK is a self-described "soul/funk dance band" that combines high energy hits from across the decades to create its own unique style.

Raffle prizes include 2 VIP tickets to live tapings of "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee!" and "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah," a custom dress design from Adele Masengo Designs, and a wine basket donated by ILAP's Board of Directors.

Our generous lead event sponsors are Berman & Simmons, Coffee by Design, Law Offices of Joe Bornstein and Norway Savings Bank, as well as Bernstein Shur, CIEE, Immigration Law Group and Pierce Atwood.

CeleSoirée supports ILAP's direct legal services, community outreach and advocacy programs that benefit more than 5,000 people across Maine each year. Through its work, ILAP assists them as they navigate the complex immigration system to find safety from violence and persecution, stay together or reunite with family members, and advance towards economic security.

More information about CeleSoirée, including how to purchase tickets (\$75 General Admission, \$100 Host Committee), is available at my.ilapmaine.org/cs2020. Guests can also support the Community Ticket Fund, which offers free event admission to former ILAP clients, their families and friends of the organization from Maine's immigrant communities.

About the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP): Founded in 1993, ILAP is Maine's only state-wide immigration legal services organization. Our mission is to help low-income immigrants improve their legal status and to work for more just and humane laws and policies affecting immigrants.

**\* \* \* \* \*** 

Ladder to the Moon Network, Amjambo Africa's parent organization, gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of the following foundations to our work: Maine Initiatives, Rines Thompson Fund, Broad Reach Fund, and People of Color Fund of the Maine Community Foundation.





# **COME JOIN US!**

Venez nous joindre Venha se juntas a nós Kaalay nagu soo biir Njoo ujiunge nasi Ngwino wifatanye natwe

Our knowledgeable and friendly staff would love to share our beer and brewery with you.

50 Industrial Way, Portland, Maine







### **AMJAMBOAFRICA.COM**

# Justice for Women Lecture Series Hosts Poet-activist Emtithal Mahmoud by Gary Lawless

Each year the Justice for Women lecture series organizes a series of talks and workshops "bringing global voices to the people of Maine." The series celebrates global voices of those who have experienced grave injustices yet have found the strength to make a difference and to inspire others to act.

This year's speaker is Emtithal Mahmoud. Born in Sudan, Mahmoud and her family moved to Yemen, and then to the United States. Emtithal graduated from Yale University, where she studied anthropology and molecular biology, and participated in the Yale slam poetry team. In 2015, she was the International Poetry Slam champion and, in 2016, was co-champion of the Women of the World poetry slam. Emtithal was named a United Nations High Commission on Refugees Goodwill Ambassador in 2018. The BBC named her to their "100 Women List" of the most inspirational women across the world.

She has spoken and read poetry in Oslo, Stockholm, The Hague, Brussels, Paris, and London, recited poetry in front of the UN General Assembly, and met with the Dalai Lama. For the United Nations, she has traveled to meet with refugees in Jordan, Uganda, and Lesvos, Greece. Leading a "One Woman Walk" to raise awareness for peace, Mahmoud walked from Darfur to Khartoum in 30 days, giving readings and talks along the way. Thousands joined the walk.

"If we can walk together, we can work together," she said. "We can create and inspire a collective responsibility for peace. We will bring the peace together."

In 2018, Emtithal published her first collection of poems, "Sisters' Entrance." Her poetry expresses the real emotions behind the headlines, she said. "It's hard, in our world, when you see violence everywhere – you're desensitized to it. What I try to do is to change the approach, so it helps people feel that it's OK to feel again, and to recognize that it's scary, and it does hurt, and it's OK to cry. And people do cry. A lot of things are said about people like me – young people, black people, Muslim people, women – the reason I perform is to answer those things, to be a voice I didn't really have growing up."

Emtithal Mahmoud will be in Maine from Monday, March 23, to Friday, March 27.

The Justice for Women lecture series has scheduled several opportunities to hear Emtithal. The following events are free and open to the public:

Monday, March 23, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Muskie Archives, Bates College, Lewiston. Interview and spoken word event.

Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick. Daughters of Darfur, featuring Emi Mahmoud and Ekhlas Ahmed. Additional readings by invited guests. For information: gulfofmainebooks@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Hannaford Hall, University of Southern Maine, Portland. Justice for Women lecture by Emtithal Mahmoud. She will be introduced by Safiya Khalid. Blanca Santiago will receive the Courage Is Contagious award. Open to the public, but a reservation is required. Register at http://www.mainelawcommunity.org/2020jfw

**Thursday, March 26**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Indigo Arts Alliance, Portland. Spoken Word event with Emtithal Mahmoud, Moon Nguany, Desiree Lester, and Ekhlas Ahmed. https://indigoartsalliance.me

## New Amjambo Contributer Heads to Greece

New *Amjambo Africa!* contributor Karina Escajeda is a Fulbright Scholar studying the integration and second language instruction of refugees who have received asylum in Greece. From January–June 2020, she will be based at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. Her focus is on building learner engagement through increased family involvement and improved school-home relationships. When in the United States, Escajeda lives and works as an English Language Learning teacher in the Augusta schools

In over 20 years of experience with language learners at all grade levels, Escajeda has worked as a teacher and administrator in both public and private schools in California, Maine, Mexico, Honduras, and Japan, and is a board member of the Capital Area New Mainers Project.

She wants to address three questions that pertain to communities in Greece as well as communities in Maine.

- What can be learned in Greece to better understand generalities about the refugee experience in a new community after a mass-migration event?
- How can we better equip teachers to appropriately present content to language learners while second language skills continue to develop?
- How can partnerships with outside organizations provide beneficial supports and services to asylee students?

She hopes that thoughtful conversations and research into best practices will bring about improved perception and reception of asylees in Augusta.









# Community News









# **Capitol Area New Mainers Project**

Capital Area New Mainers Project

The Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP) was founded as a nonprofit in 2017 when a group of local residents decided they wanted to assist new arrivals to integrate into the community. Chris Myers Asch is the CANMP co-founder and executive director. The goals of the organization are to help new arrivals navigate their new home, build bridges between newcomers and long-time residents of the Augusta area, and educate Americans about immigration issues and diverse cultures. The organization's volunteers try to plug gaps in social services provided by other nonprofits and the City of Augusta. They also hold potlucks, holiday celebrations, an international children's festival in mid-July, game and movie nights, teen gatherings and trips. They offer Arabic classes for interested Americans during the week; on weekends, they hold Arabic literacy classes for children growing up in the U.S. CANMP's comfortable community space at 70 State Street, Augusta, has a pleasant play area for children complete with a reading library stocked with bilingual books; parents can read aloud in Arabic to their children while the kids follow along in English. Books may be checked out.

The Augusta area is home to approximately 65 families of recent arrivals, most of whom are originally from the Middle East, primarily Iraq and Syria. The majority of these are secondary migrants who were admitted to the United States as refugees, resettled in Florida and Arizona, and then beginning in 2013 chose to relocate to Maine. Augusta has also embraced a small number of recent African immigrants from Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda, and has been home to a number of families from South Asia for many years. The Augusta school system educates over 100 children whose mother tongue is not English.

# Djiboutian American Community Empowerment Project

DACEP held their annual meeting on February 2. The meeting reviewed finances of the organization and recapped achievements of 2019, which included becoming a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and opening an office. DACEP's

plans include a Djibouti Independence celebration on Saturday, June 27, and an Eid Festival in Lewiston that is similar to last year's, but more extensive. Plans are also underway for a Women's Empowerment and Family Development program and an Adult Literacy and Self Development program. DACEP will collaborate with New Mainers Resource Center (NMRC) of Portland Adult Education to tackle issues faced by individuals from Djiboutian and French-speaking communities as they pursue professional careers here in Maine. DACEP met with members of Bates College's Harward Center for Community Partnership and agreed to partner on an afterschool program, which will include Bates student volunteers helping children with homework. The annual meeting concluded with a discussion on the importance of community and of deepening the support and participation of the Djiboutian community in DACEP.

# Somali Bantu Association of Maine

The Somali Bantu Community Association is gearing up for the 2020 farming season, and the Association has hired a new production manager. This year's focus is on starting a Senior Shares program for the first time.

The Kasheekee Project, a cultural program for youth, is rapidly expanding. Winter used to be the slow season, but this winter approximately 60 kids have been attending the weekly program, and the Association expects a robust program in the summer. Farah is the Program Coordinator.

The Elders Connect Program creates a safe space for elders to come together and have fun. Participants enjoy coffee and refreshments, share conversation, and gather information. During the cold season, when elders can't get outside to meet with their friends, the Elders Connect Program provides a second home.

Muhidin D. Libah is the Executive Director of the Somali Bantu Association of Maine, which has been the center of the Somali Bantu community since 2005. The association's mission is "to provide vital transitional services, advocacy, and programming that empowers members of the refugee community to uphold cultural identity and thrive in their new life." Farming projects have been a focus since the association's beginning. A 2020 goal is to focus equal attention on a number of other important projects and to find funding and resources for these projects. Approximately 3,000 Somali Bantu live in the Lewiston/Auburn area. The office is at 145 Pierce Street, Suite 101, Lewiston.

# **Maine Youth Network**

Mariam Mohamed is the founder and president of Maine Youth Network (MYN), founded in 2017 and previously known as Somali Mainer Youth Network. The group changed their name because they want to include all youth, regardless of race, ethnicity, or age. MYN works to provide guidance to youth in the Greater Portland and Lewiston/Auburn areas about how to connect to their roots, communities, and professional and academic endeavors, in order to ensure competency for adulthood. Their aim is to provide immigrant youth the necessary tools to compete and succeed in life, and their vision is to inspire academic excellence, encourage civic engagement, and enhance relations between parents and youth. They want to create a stable and effective platform for Maine youth to navigate adolescence, build leadership skills, and develop strong and sustainable community relations.

Since 2017, Maine Youth Network has hosted events such as Somali Independence Day, Eid Celebration, the Identities of Migration Conference, Young Girls Workshop, Youth Dialogue Nights, and others. MYN believes these events bring together young people from all walks of life and ensure that they feel seen and heard. MYN hosts weekly classes about Islam in Portland that are open to both Muslims and non-Muslims. The classes are held on Fridays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and focus on a different topic each week. Each class includes question and answer time. Currently, MYN is working with SPACE Gallery to plan a presentation intended to raise awareness about issues of mental health in the immigrant community, and to share resources so people can get help, rather than suffer in silence. The March 15 event will include a panel discussion and presentations at SPACE Gallery, Portland, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. All are invited. Maine Youth Network is based at 991 Forest Ave., Portland.

# **Congolese Brazzaville Community of Maine**

Mileina Beatrice Balou was elected president of the Congolese Brazzaville Community of Maine (CCBM) in September 2019. Since then, CCBM has become a 501(c)(3) with a board of seven members – each with responsibility – and a full slate of officers. CCBM also has an Integration Com-

a particular area of responsibility – and a full slate of officers. CCBM also has an Integration Commission, whose members provide assistance to those looking for jobs or housing, needing help with immigration lawyers, or applying for green cards. Elders in the community serve as advisors, helping to resolve conflicts. In recent months, CCBM has launched a website (https://ccbm-us.org/) and created a Facebook page. The group wants Mainers to learn about Republic of Congo (also known as Congo Brazzaville, after its capital city) and understand that it is a distinct country from Democratic Republic of Congo (also known as Congo Kinshasa). They would like to raise the visibility of the community in Maine. To that end, President Balou has been visiting with mayors and city council members in the Greater Portland area, and plans are underway for events that will display the food, clothing, and natural resources of Congo Brazzaville. CCBM also plans to raise funds to help those suffering from a financial crisis back home. An estimated 300-500 people live in Maine who were born in Congo Brazzaville. Of these, approximately 100 individuals have become members of CCBM. The group has an online membership form, which is available on the website.

# Maine Ivorian Community

Simon-Pierre Obrou is the president of the Maine Ivorian Community, a nonprofit that seeks to create an environment where immigrants of Ivorian origin can come together to share and support each other. The commu-

nity values Ivorian culture, family and education, good neighborly relations with the host community, successful community integration in Maine, and the well-being of Ivorian immigrants. The next meeting of the community will be in late March. Approximately 50 Ivorians live in the Greater Portland area. Ivorians living in Maine who are not connected to the organization are encouraged to email President Simon-Pierre Obrou and introduce yourselves: simonpierre.obrou@yahoo.fr









# **Angolan Community of Maine**

The General Assembly of the Angolan Community of Maine met in February to discuss goals for 2020 and to make plans for the year. The community's activities are geared toward helping Angolans integrate into

the American system, as well as helping Americans learn about the richness of Angolan culture. Plans are underway to produce a website, a Facebook live event, and informational comics and pamphlets designed to help the community better understand how to navigate life in America. The community is actively searching for an office. Events are planned each month, starting with a Women's Day celebration in March, a Peace celebration in April, and a Mother's Day celebration in May. Planned workshops include Saving and Investing, Budgeting or Financial Literacy, Housing, and Launching and/or Buying Businesses. Past challenges have included a lack of information about American laws protecting basic human rights, such as immigrants' rights, worker's rights, and access to health care. Confusion over navigating the American system has caused many to fail to access services and opportunities, such as training for good jobs, personal loans, and scholarships for education.

Nsiona Nguizani is president of the Angolan Community of Maine. Nguizani estimates that approximately 2,000 Angolans live in the Greater Portland area, with a growing community in Lewiston/Auburn. Over 2,500 Angolans now live in Maine.

# **Rwandese Community Association of Maine**

Antoine Bikamba is the Interim President of the Rwandese Community Association of Maine. A new executive team will be elected in the next few months. The association sponsors two major events each year – a

New Year's celebration, which took place January 4 and was very successful, and the annual commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, which will be held April 11 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. The commemoration will begin with a Walk to Remember, and continue at Portland High School on Cumberland Avenue.

Strengthening communication between youth who have grown up in Maine and their Africanborn parents is a goal of the association. One cultural program sponsored by the community aims to connect children with their heritage and teaches language, dance, and the history of Rwanda.

The association tries to support members when they need it, pooling money for funerals, for example. The municipalities in the Greater Portland area maintain good relations with the association, so that when newcomers arrive the association president is informed. Approximately 700-1,000 Rwandese live in Maine.

# **South Sudanese Community of Maine**

Beginning Friday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. Veeva Banga, a young South Sudanese dance instructor who has taught African dance for years, will present South Sudanese Moves in the studio at Casco Bay High School.

The dance-exercise program is designed to promote African dance and cultural expression and will run for at least six weeks. Aware that the South Sudanese community is not the sole authority on African dance and culture, other African communities are invited to work with the instructor in delivering instructions on how to perform dances from other parts of Africa. All are welcome. The class is free, although donations to the South Sudanese Community are welcomed. For more information contact: Veeva Banga at: 207-347-0823.

Other events to look forward to include an African Gala, which is being organized by a youth group, open mic nights, and a Mother's Day celebration. Also stay tuned for news from a group of mothers who are looking for ways to support each other with childcare, particularly for those who work at night. The South Sudanese Community of Maine works to present and highlight events, advocate for the needs of South Sudanese, and unify the community. There are approximately 3,000 South Sudanese living in Maine. John Ochira is president of the community. He can be reached at 207-409-5475.

# **Portland Adult Education School Board Representative Magalie Lumiere Yangala**

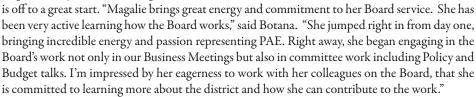
MAGALIE LUMIERE YANGALA WAS ELECTED PORTLAND ADULT EDUCATION'S second representative to the Portland School Board in November 2019, and was sworn into office on December 2 at City Hall in Portland. Born in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Yangala said she moved to Maine in November 2918. She never expected her life trajectory to include the U.S., and confided (in excellent English) that in fact she had no interest in learning English when she was growing up. "I was not good at English back home, and I slept through class! I wish my English teacher could see me now!"

Yangala holds PAE in high esteem. "PAE has given a chance for a better future to people from 92 different countries. The teachers and administrators do a great job," she said. She feels that her

position as PAE representative is a great responsibility, and wants to use her position to help others, and give back to the school that has welcomed her and helped her

She said that she is interested in listening to the concerns of students at PAE. She wants to help find solutions to problems such as parking, transportation, and most important of all - how to help those with advanced skills, such as civil engineers, architects, and electricians, transition into the U.S. workforce.

Xavier Botana, superintendent of Portland Public Schools, and School Board Chair Roberto Rodriguez clearly both think Yangala



Botana and Rodriguez both believe PAE serves a vital role in the life of the City, and emphasized the importance of Yangala's position. "We added the Portland Adult Education student representative to the Board two years ago. It was in recognition that our Adult Ed program serves 4000 students every year and as such is our largest "school." Over the past few years, we've increasingly come to see Portland Adult Ed as central to our equity work in the district. Many of PAE's students are the parents of our children. The extent to which PAE helps them to achieve their learning goals will serve them, and their children well," said Botana.

"I feel that unfortunately, Portland Adult Education sometimes gets left behind when we talk about Portland Public Schools, as often the conversations are centered around K-12 education. PAE is a true gem of Portland with offerings that have immense value to our entire city and its residents. Having a PAE representative on the Board and adding their voices to the district's work is critical to ensuring we continue to grow and promote the value of adult education," said Rodriguez.

Botana noted that the first PAE representative, Axels Sumuntu, was instrumental in getting high quality internet into the school as well as advocating for transportation assistance for students needing help getting to school. "He helped to keep PAE front and center," said Botana.

Yangala said she plans to organize informational workshops on topics students have requested - an introduction to the laws of the U.S.; what it means to file a lawsuit; what 911 calls should be used for are three examples. She noted that students are hungry for information about life in the

She emphasized that investing in PAE brings benefits to Maine as well as the students. "We are future citizens – people who will eventually get work papers – and we want to bring good to the state that has helped us. Asylum seekers want to help Maine."

She encouraged other new arrivals to serve in volunteer positions, noting that volunteering helps develop language skills, make connections, and fill the time waiting to be granted working papers with productive activity. She noted that volunteerism is not standard in Africa, and so many people don't realize it brings benefits although there is no money attached. Volunteering is healthy, develops leadership skills, and can be lots of fun, she said.

March 3 will be a big day for Yangala – the day of her first report to the school board. She expects to be able to announce dates for three workshops following the March 3 meeting. Exuding

optimism, with a twinkle in her eye, Yangala talked of her appreciation for the welcome she has received in Maine. "I fell in love with the City of Portland - with the people - but I am still trying to love winter!" she



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Mondays and Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm, Saturdays 9-10am

Cours Gratuits de Conversation

Lundi, Mardi 17h30-18h30. Samedi 9h-10h Aulas Gratúitas de Conversação em Inglês

Segunda-feira, Terça-feira 17:30-18:30hrs. Sábado 9-10hrs

Fasalka Wada Sheekeysiga Ingiriis Bilaash ah Isniinta, Tallaadada 5:30-6:30pm. Sabti 9-10am Clase de Inglés Conversacional Gratis Lunes, Martes 5:30-6:30pm. Sabado 9-10am

## Would you like to join the Community News Page?

Amjambo Africa is piloting a new feature - Community News. Our goal is to help readers keep up with what's happening in Maine's vibrant African community associations. These associations play a crucial role in the state. We hope you will be in touch if you'd like to share your association's news with Amjambo Africa's readers - online and in print. Email the editor at amjamboafrica@gmail.com and we will include your association in our Community News.

> YMCA of Southern Maine: 70 Forest Ave., Portland 207.874.1111 www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/english



Every great relationship begins with a "hello."

kila uhusiano muhimu huanza na "hujambo"

Toute bonne relation commence par un "salut".

Umubano unoze wose ubimburirwa na "Muraho".



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### COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Class of 2020

Assumption College Boston University Central Maine Comm. College Clark University Columbia University Creighton University Curry College Drexel University Franklin Pierce University George Mason University High Point University Hollins University Husson University Ithaca College Keene State College Keuka College Lesley University Mary Baldwin University Merrimack College Mount Holyoke College New England College Nova Southeastern University Pace University, New York City Quinnipiac University Saint Joseph's College-ME Salem College

Seattle University
Southern Maine Comm. College
Temple University
The University of Tampa
Thomas College
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Central Florida
University of Hartford
University of Maine
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts,

Lowell
University of New England
University of New Haven
University of South Carolina Columbia
University of Southern Maine
University of Vermont
Wheaton College MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University

"double up" if desired, meaning that students can follow their interests and take multiple courses in a given discipline each year – such as two science courses or several languages. All of these opportunities, supported with close weekly advisement sessions, translate to a school that current students said works hard to support the individual.

Headed for a career in medicine, senior Sahar Habibzai credited Deering with encouraging her career aspirations by allowing her to take Chemistry at University of Southern Maine, as well as AP

Biology and AP Physics. Senior Aidan Reid, who wants to pursue international politics and foreign policy, has interned at the World Affairs Council of Maine in addition to taking courses in Comparative Government and Human Geography. He pointed out that "Deering is a microcosm of the world," making it a perfect high school for someone interested in global affairs.

The school demonstrates its commitment to global education by offering many international trips, four languages, a required tenth-grade Global Issues course based on the Model United Nations curriculum, partnerships with the World Affairs Council and the University of New England's Center for Global Humanities, and a mission that includes the fostering of global competency.





Lilly Russell, Sahar Habibzai, Aidan Reid

66

I work from a place of meaning. One of the most important things a teacher can do is help students build confidence to carry through their lives.

— Art teacher, Audrey Michaud-Rolfe





### KINYARWANDA TRANSLATION

### **SOBANUKIRWA IBARURA RY'ABATUYE AMERIKA ESE NTA NGARUKA KWIBARUZA BITERA?**

Stephanie Harp

Buri myaka 10 Amerika ikora ibarura ry'abaturage ikamenya buri wese uba mu gihugu ni muri urwo rwego irya 2020 rizatangira muri Werurwe. Hagati ya tariki 12 na 20 za Werurwe 2020 buri rugo ruzakira urupapuro rw'ibazwa wasubiza kuri telefoni, mu gasanduka k'iposita cg kuri interineti. Amakuru yose ni ibanga. Ibiva mu ibarura bikoreshwa gusa mu ibarurishamibare

Ibivuye mu ibarura bigaragaza umubare w'abashingamategeko bazahagararira leta zitandukanye mu myaka icumi iri imbere. Leta ya Maine ubu ifite abayihagarariye babiri mu nteko ya Amerika. Uko umubare w'abaturage wiyongereye niko n'ababahagararira mu nteko biyongera. Ku bijyanye n'abasenateri, buri Leta igira babiri bitagendeye ku mubare wabayituye. Imibare y'abaturage y'iki gihe kandi yerekana umubare w'abahagarira uduce dutandukanye twa Maine mu nteko ya Maine iba Augusta.

Guhagararirwa ni ingenzi cyane nkuko bitangazwa na Mufalo Chitam, umuyobozi w'ihuriro riharanira uburenganzira bw'abimukira muri Maine. Kuri we ngo ibarura rizasiga abimukira nabo biyumvamo ko babasha guhagararirwa. Ibiro byibarura bya Amerika bitanga ibibazo by'ibarura n'amabwiriza mu ndimi zirenga 59 ndetse harimo n'izifasha abamugaye kubasha kwibaruza.

Yaba Leta Federali ndetse na Leta ziyigize bose bifashisha imibare y'ibarura mu kugabanya miliyari hafi 675 zigenewe inkunga izafasha amashuri, amavuriro, imihanda n'indi mirimo ya Leta itandukanye. Urugero mu mwaka w'ubukungu wa 2016, Maine yakiriye angana na \$4,114,357,289 avuye muri gahunda 55 za Leta nkuru zari zirangajwe imbere n'imibare yavuye mu ibarura rya 2010. Dequa Dalac, umujyanama mu nama nkuru ya Portland y'amajyepfo agira ati: "Serivisi zifasha abaturage mu myaka icumi zizagendera ku ibarura rya 2020. Ibi bivuze ko niba wowe cg umwana wawe batibaruje bizatuma ubufasha butangwa butabarwa neza bigire ingaruka ku bana, abagore, abamugaye mu migi itandukanye ya Maine".

Akomeza avuga ko abana benshi bo mu miryango y'abimukira batibaruje mu ibarura riheruka bigira ingaruka ku ngengoyimari yagenewe ubufasha bw'abatishoboye-ni ngombwa ko umuntu abarurwa akabarirwa mu muryango wa Maine. Urashaka kubarurwa cg kutibaruza? urasabwa kwibuka ko ibarura ari

Abantu benshi baba bafite impungenge ku ibanga riherekeza amakuru yo mu ibarura, ariko umutwe wa 13 w'amategeko ya Amerika abuza ibiro by'ibarura guha amakuru ibiro ibyo aribyo byose ajyanye n'umwirondoro w'uwabaruwe. Yaba inkiko, yaba abashinzwe umutekano, bose ntawemerewe kuyahabwa. Ibiro by'igihugu bishinzwe ishyinguranyandiko bibujijwe gusohora aya makuru y'ababaruwe mbere y'imyaka 72. Mu gihe umukozi w'ibiro byibarura arenze ku mategeko akica indahiro ye yo kurinda amakuru ava mu ibarura, ashobora guhanishwa ihazabu igera ku bihumbi \$250 ndetse agafungwa kugeza ku myaka hafi 5.

Angela Okafor, umunyamategeko y'abimukira, umucuruzi ndetse akaba umujyanama mu nama nkuru ya Bangor avuga ko umuntu adategetswe gusubiza ibibazo byose yumva bibangamiye sitati ye y'ubwimukira. Gusa nanone ntiwemerewe gutanga amakuru atari yo. Ibi biraha abimukira uburyo bwo kugira uruhare mu ibarura. Akomeza agira ati: "Nitutibaruza twe n'abana bacu tuzaba twiyima amahirwe yo guhagararirwa ndetse n'ubuterankunga butugenewe".

Ibarura riteganywa mu ngingo ya II y'itegekonshinga rya Amerika. Rikorwa buri myaka icumi kuva mu mwaka wa 1790 habarurwa abaturage bose, ubariyemo abenegihugu ndetse n'abimukira batabaruye. Uyu mwaka nkuko biteganywa n'ingengabihe, ibiro by'ibarura bizigisha abantu uko rikorwa, byohereze urupapuro rwo gusubirizaho ibibazwa hanyuma byohereze n'urwandiko rwibutsa kwibaruza. Inzu zizaba zitarohereza ibisubizo by'ibarura mu mpera za Werurwe zizohererezwa ikarita ebyiri zibutsa, urwandiko rwibutsa ndetse na kopi y'urupapuro rushyirwaho ibisubizo by'ibarura. Mu gihe ibiro by'ibarura bizaba bitarabona amakuru, umukozi wabo azaza ku rugo rwawe gukurikirana. Iri barura ryanditswe mu ndimi zirenga 59 ndetse n'izifasha abafite ubumuga bwo kutabona.

Claude Rwaganje, umuyobozi wa Prosperity Maine avuga ko ari ingenzi ko abantu bose bibaruza ariko cyane cyane abimukira. Akomeza agira ati abimukira basaba ubuhungiro abenshi amaso yabo ari ku madosiye, nyamara n'ibarura rirabareba. Arasaba abimukira bose kugira uruhare mu ibarura. Ibarura rizagira ingaruka kuri buri Leta ihagarariwe mu nteko nshingamategeko ya Amerika ndetse n'ingano y'amafaranga Leta nkuru igenera Leta ya Maine.

Ku mwana utabaruwe, Leta ya Maine itakaza nibura angana na \$16,400 ava muri Leta nkuru yari kuzamujyendaho mu myaka 10 nk'uko bitangazwa na Morgan Hynd, umuyobozi wa porogaramu ya Bingham. Byakunze kugaragara ko abana bari munsi y'imyaka itanu, b'abirabura, bava mu moko runaka, abata-

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gira aho baba ndetse n'abatuye mu byaro bakomeje kurengwaho ntibabarurwe muri Maine.

Imiryango 14 yamaze guhabwa inkunga ngo ihugure abantu kuzitabira ibarura. Iyo miryango ni Gateway Community Services Maine; Hand in Hand Mano en Mano; League of Women Voters of Maine - Education Fund; Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta; Maine Access Immigrant Network (MAIN); Maine Adult Education Association; Maine Children's Alliance; Maine Equal Justice; Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition; Preble Street; Rural Community Action Ministry; Sunrise County Economic Council; Tri-County Mental Health Services; YWCA Central Maine.

Ibizakorwa n'ubu bufasha harimo kugera ku bantu bigishwa, kugenda urugi ku rundi utanga impapuro zisobanura, gutegura amahugurwa ndetse no gukoresha imbuga nkoranyambaga.

Ikigega gitera inkunga isakazabikorwa by'ibarura muri Maine mu mwaka wa 2020, giterwa inkunga na: The Betterment Fund, The Bingham Program, Broad Reach Fund, The Doree Taylor Foundation, Bank of America N.A., Trustee, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Health Access Foundation, na Sam L. Cohen Foundation.

Abandi bafatanyabikorwa muri iki kigega ariko badatera inkunga harimo: Maine Philanthropy Center, Maine Women's Fund, and United Way of Greater Portland.

### **ICYOREZO CY'INZIGE GIHANGAYIKISHIJE** AFURIKA Y'UBURASIRAZUBA

Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

Umuryango w'abibumbye uratangaza ko inzige amamiliyari ziri kurya imyaka mu bihugu bya Kenya, Uganda, Tanzaniya, Somaliya na Etiyopiya. Ibiro ntaramakuru by'abanyamerika bitangaza ko izi nzige zizateza ingorane zisumbuye ku ngorane zari muri aka gace ko mu burasirazuba bw'Afurika.

Leta zo mu Karere ziri gukora hirya no hino ngo zihangane n'iki cyorezo. Uganda yahamagaje inama y'abaminisitiri tariki 10 Gashyantare, ubwo icyorezo cyageraga muri Uganda. Leta yahuruje abaturage n'igisirikare ngo batere umuti ahabonetse inzige. Ikindi inama y'abaminisitiri yateguye ni ugukoresha indege ifuhera imiti kuko aribyo byoroshye mu kurwanya izi nzige zo mu bwoko bw'ibihore.

Icyorezo cy'inzige mu kugera mu gace cyatijwe umurindi n'imvura yaguye ku bwinshi budasanzwe mu gace ka Afurika y'Uburasirazuba. Abahanga bakaba bavuga ko ishobora gukomeza kugwa bimwe bizagora gukumira iki cyorezo kuko inzige zizabona ubwatsi butoshye bwo kurya zikororoka cyane. Ikigo nterankunga cya Amerika -USAID kivuga ko kuva mu 2019, inzige zo mu butayu zarushijeho kwikuba kenshi mu gihugu cya Etiyopiya bigira ingaruka ku bihingwa n'ubworozi biri kuri Are 581,000. Mu kugenekereza, Itsinda ry'inzige zo mu butayu rishobora kugenda ibirometero 93 ku munsi ndetse rikaba ryangiza ibyahaza ku munsi umwe abantu 35,000. Ishami rya Loni rishinzwe ubuhinzi ritangaza ko imihindagurikire y'ikirere yakomeje gutera urujya n'uruza rw'abimukira mu karere k'uburengerazuba.

Umuyobozi wungirije wa Loni ushinzwe ubutabazi n'ubufasha, Mark Lowcock avuga ko biteye inkeke cyane ko aka gace kari gafite hafi miliyoni 12 z'abaturage bugarijwe n'inzara. Avuga ko bizabagora kwihanganira ingaruka z'iki cyorezo. Ikindi giteye ubwoba Loni ni uko iki cyorezo gishobora gukwirakwira hose kandi ibikoresho bigikumira bikiri bicye.

Abahanga kandi bavugako iki cyorezo kiri kototera Sudani y'epfo, igihugu kirimo amamiliyoni y'abaturage bari mu kaga ko gusonza n'izindi serivisi. Tanzania nayo yabonye icyorezo ku butaka bwayo aho igihugu cyakodesheje indege eshatu ngo zitere umuti wo kwirukana inzige. Gutera umuti hifashishijwe indege nibwo buryo bwagaragaje gukumira iki cyorezo. Gusa ibihugu byose birebwa n'iki cyorezo siko byabasha gukodesha izi ndege. Abahanga ku mihindagurikire y'ikirere bavugako ikwirakwira ry'izi nzige ryatewe n'imvura idasanzwe yaguye m'Ukuboza 2019 mu gihugu cya Somaliya. Izi nzige zikaba zikekwa gukomoka mu kigobe cy'abarabu aho imvura yaguye mu gihugu cya Oman inzige zikabona uko zihororokera.

Abahanga bakaba bavuga ko mu kurwanya iki cyorezo bazakenera kugera aho cyatangiriye hakekwa kuba muri Somaliya. Bavuga ko bitazoroha cyane ko aho bakeka ari mu gace kayobowe n'abaterabwoba ba Al Shabab. Irumbu rimwe ry'inzige rishobora kugira inzige miliyoni 150 zuzuye ku kilometero kare kimwe, ahantu hangana n'ibibuga 250 by'umupira w'amaguru nkuko abatuye mu duce turimo icyorezo babibwiye the

## **English Language Learning Classes** and Conversation Groups in Portland

Please note: If you offer a free English language learning opportunity in Portland or elsewhere in the state that you'd like us to publicize, please email amjamboafrica@gmail.com.



Hope House • 14 Sherman St.

The Hope House English Language Program (HHELP) offers the opportunity for beginner and intermediate adult students to develop and practice their reading, writing, listening, and spoken English Language skills in small, supportive classes. Class registration is ongoing. Beginner and advanced beginner classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Intermediate and advanced intermediate classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Please go to Hope House between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to fill out an application. For more information, call 207-274-6005 or email carolyn@hopeacts.org.

**YMCA** • New American Welcome Center, 70 Forest Ave.

English speaking classes on Mondays and Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Free childcare. No placement exam; all levels welcome. Winter classes began the week of January 13; please register as soon as possible if you'd like to join a class, which may still be possible. To register call 207-874-1111, email Marena, mbach@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org, or stop by 70 Forest Ave., Portland.

#### Children's Museum & Theater of Maine • 142 Free St.

English speaking classes on Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free childcare. No placement exam; all levels welcome. The next session begins February 29th. To register, call 207-828-1234 x227, email lily@kitetails.org, or visit www.kitetails.org/events.

In Her Presence • USM-Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth St. and Portland Library, 5 Monument Sq.

English conversation groups every Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Talk and make conversation with women of different cultures and backgrounds. Free childcare at the library location. For information email inherpresence.maine@gmail.com, or call 207-347-9891 or 207-331-7811.

### Portland Adult Education • 14 Locust St.

English language opportunities for students of all levels. The first step for new students is to attend an intake. Intake appointments last approximately 2 hours. Drop-in intake hours are: Mondays, 9:00 a.m.-noon; Tuesdays, 2:30-5:00 p.m. (No intakes on 2/11/20, 3/10/20); Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-noon; Thursdays, 12:30-3:00 p.m. The Learning Lab provides free, supported online learning opportunities. No registration is needed. An experienced teacher will guide your studies. The lab is open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Please contact Sara Staples, stapls@portlandschools.org, with questions or call 207-874-8155.

### Learning Works • 181 Brackett St.

English-speaking practice in small groups with attention to pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and American culture. Beginning Level A, Monday and Wednesday mornings; Beginning Level B, Monday and Wednesday afternoons; Intermediate Level, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Classes start January 27, however it may be possible to join a class after this date. Call Rachel, 207-517-3139, or come to the office to register. Registration also available online at www.learningworks.me.

### **The Salvation Army** • 297 Cumberland Ave.

English classes Levels 1-4, Monday and Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Beginner level Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Intermediate level Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Computer lab open Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 p.m. No placement exam. Your child may attend with you and there is also free childcare. Open enrollment. For more information, contact Eric Twahirwa, 207-774-4172, or email: eric.twahirwa@use.salvationarmy.org.

Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center • 24 Preble St. GPIWC's iEnglish Project is an online language learning platform available free of charge for all levels of adult learners in the Greater Portland area. Learners can use the onsite language learning lab located at 24 Preble Street weekdays from 9-5 and are also able to access the platform 24/7 from a personal computer or mobile device. The iEnglish Project combines language acquisition with workforce development lessons. They offer classes in IT, construction, CNA, healthcare professions, and citizenship. Enrollment is open and learners may register for an account at any time. For more information call 207-517-3402, email Laura at laura@welcomeimmigrant.org, or stop in the office.

### **PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION**

### UM SURTO DE GAFANHOTOS PODE CUSTAR Muito a áfrica oriental

Por Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

As Nações Unidas anunciaram que bilhões de gafanhotos estão invadindo plantações no Quênia, Uganda, Tanzânia, Somália e Etiópia, e cresce o medo de que a infestação agrave seriamente as condições no leste da África, segundo a Associated Press.

Os governos da região estão trabalhando dia e noite para conter a calamidade. Uganda convocou uma reunião de gabinete em 10 de fevereiro, após o surto atingir o território ugandense e anunciou a mobilização de forças militares e civis para pulverizar pesticidas destinados a conter o surto. O Gabinete também propôs a pulverização aérea por helicópteros, que eles disseram ser uma maneira eficaz de combater uma calamidade desse tipo. O surto de gafanhotos na região foi em parte exacerbado pelas recentes chuvas fortes, que são incomuns para a África Oriental. Especialistas alertam que a mudança climática trará mais chuvas mais cedo ou mais tarde, e dizem que a contenção do gafanhoto antes de mais chuvas será crucial - caso contrário, os insetos se beneficiarão de vegetação fresca e se multiplicarão exponencialmente.

A Agência dos Estados Unidos para o Desenvolvimento Internacional (USAID) relata que desde junho de 2019 uma infestação de gafanhotos do deserto se intensificou na Etiópia, afetando cerca de 581.000 acres de terras agrícolas e pastagens. Em média, um enxame de gafanhotos do deserto pode viajar até 150 quilômetros por dia e até um pequeno enxame pode consumir a mesma quantidade de comida em um dia que aproximadamente 35.000 pessoas, relata a Organização das Nações Unidas para Agricultura e Alimentação (UNFAO).

As mudanças climáticas levaram ao movimento de migração humana na África Oriental, e o subsecretário-geral das Nações Unidas para Assuntos Humanitários, Mark Lowcock, está preocupado com o fato de os 12 milhões de pessoas que estão enfrentando insegurança alimentar na África Oriental terem dificuldade em lidar com a calamidade adicional de gafanhoto. A UNFAO manifestou preocupação de que o surto traga doenças.

Especialistas também alertam que o surto de gafanhotos está se encaminhando para o Sudão do Sul, onde milhões de pessoas passam fome depois de décadas de guerra civil. A Tanzânia também detetou o surto de gafanhotos em seu solo e eles contrataram três aviões para pulverização aérea, segundo o Guardian. A pulverização aérea é considerada a maneira mais eficaz de conter esse surto, mas nem todos os países podem comprar os aviões necessários.

Os estudiosos do clima creditam as chuvas fortes incomuns, juntamente com um poderoso ciclone na Somália em dezembro de 2019. Acredita-se que os gafanhotos venham da Península Arábica, onde as fortes chuvas no deserto de Omã forneceram condições favoráveis de reprodução para esses insetos.

Os cientistas estão preocupados com o fato de os principais criadouros dos gafanhotos estarem em uma área da Somália controlada por grupos extremistas islâmicos da Al Shabab e que, portanto, será um desafio conter o surto na fonte. Um único enxame pode conter até 150 milhões de gafanhotos por km² de terras agrícolas, uma área do tamanho de quase 250 campos de futebol, de acordo com as autoridades regionais que falaram com o Guardian.

### O QUE É O CENSO DOS EUA E SERÁ QUE É SEGURO?

Por Stephanie Harp

A cada 10 anos, os EUA realizam um censo para contar todas as pessoas que vivem neste país e o censo de 2020 começa em março. Entre 12 e 20 de março, cada casa receberá um convite para responder a um questionário simples; você pode optar por responder on-line, por correio ou telefone. Toda informação é mantida confidencial. Por lei, os dados do Censo podem ser usados apenas para estatísticas e nada mais.

Os resultados do censo determinam o número de assentos para cada estado na Câmara dos Deputados dos EUA nos próximos 10 anos, com base na população; O Maine atualmente possui dois distritos no Congresso. Se o Censo mostrar que a população de um estado aumentou, esse estado poderá adicionar representantes adicionais. (Cada estado sempre tem dois senadores dos EUA, independentemente da população.) As estatísticas do censo também determinam como cada área do Maine é representada na Casa do Estado em Augusta.

"Representação importa!" disse Mufalo Chitam, diretor executivo da Coalizão dos Direitos dos Imigrantes do Maine (MIRC). "A participação no censo garantirá que os imigrantes sejam representados no Maine". O US Census Bureau fornece páginas da Web e guias traduzidos em 59 idiomas diferentes do inglês, incluindo a American Sign Language, além de guias em braille e letras grandes.

Os governos federal e estadual usam estatísticas do Censo

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sobre população para distribuir mais de US \$ 675 bilhões em fundos, subsídios e apoio gastos em escolas, hospitais, estradas, obras públicas e outros programas. No FY2016, por exemplo, o Maine recebeu US \$ 4.114.357.289 por meio de 55 programas de gastos federais guiados por dados derivados do Censo de 2010. "O governo federal baseará o financiamento de serviços sociais nos próximos 10 anos nos números do Censo de 2020, o que significa que se você ou seus filhos não estão incluídos no próximo censo, os serviços sociais para muitos - crianças, idosos, deficientes, por exemplo - não serão adequadamente financiados nas cidades e vilas do Maine", disse Deqa Dhalac, vereadora do South Portland. "Muitas crianças de cor não foram contadas no último censo, e os orçamentos para serviços sociais tiveram um impacto negativo. É importante ser contado, ser incluído como parte da comunidade do Maine. Deseja ser incluído ou deixado de fora? E lembre-se, o censo é anônimo."

Muitas pessoas podem estar preocupadas com a privacidade das informações no Censo, mas o Título 13 do Código dos EUA impede que o Census Bureau libere qualquer informação identificável, nem mesmo para a aplicação da lei ou para os tribunais. A Administração Nacional de Arquivos e Registos, que mantém registos do Censo, não tem permissão para divulgá-lo por 72 anos. Se os funcionários do Census Bureau violarem seu juramento de proteger informações privadas, eles podem ser multados em até US \$ 250.000 e presos por até cinco anos.

Angela Okafor, advogada de imigração, proprietária de empresa e vereadora de Bangor, disse: "Você não tem mandato para responder a nenhuma pergunta sobre seu status de imigração, mas não deve dar respostas falsas. Isso torna seguro a participação de imigrantes no Censo. Se não formos contados, estaremos negando a nós mesmos - e especialmente a nossos filhos - a representação adequada e outros recursos que nos são devidos."

O Censo é obrigatório no Artigo II da Constituição dos EUA. É realizado a cada 10 anos, desde 1790, para contar todos os residentes, incluindo não cidadãos e imigrantes sem documentos. Este ano, seguindo um cronograma, o Census Bureau trabalhará para educar as pessoas sobre o Censo, enviar convites para responder ao Censo e enviar lembretes para responder ao Censo. As famílias que não responderam até o final de março receberão um cartão postal de lembrete, seguido de uma carta de lembrete e uma cópia em papel do questionário e outro cartão postal de lembrete. Se o Bureau do Censo ainda não recebeu as informações, um funcionário do Censo fará o acompanhamento pessoalmente e vai até sua casa. O US Census Bureau fornece páginas da web e guias traduzidos em 59 idiomas que não o inglês, incluindo a American Sign Language, além de guias em braille e letras grandes.

"Não é apenas importante que todas as pessoas sejam contadas, mas é fundamental que todos os imigrantes sejam contados", disse Claude Rwaganje, diretor executivo da ProsperityME. "A maioria dos requerentes de asilo está com os pedidos pendentes, e eles podem pensar que o Censo não os preocupa, mas sim. Encorajo todos os imigrantes a participarem." Os resultados do censo terão impacto na forma como cada estado é representado no Congresso e quais recursos os estados podem receber do governo federal. Para cada criança que não é contada, o Maine pode potencialmente perder US \$ 16.400 em financiamento federal por um período de dez anos, de acordo com Morgan Hynd, diretor do Programa Bingham. Historicamente, crianças com menos de 5 anos de idade, pessoas de cor, nações tribais, pessoas em comunidades rurais e pessoas em situação de rua têm sido subconta no Maine.

Quatorze organizações sem fins lucrativos receberam doações para apoiar a participação no Censo. Estes são os Gateway Community Services Maine; De mãos dadas Mano en Mano; Liga de Eleitoras do Maine - Fundo de Educação; Voluntários em alfabetização da Grande Augusta; Rede de imigrantes de acesso ao Maine (MAIN); Associação de Educação de Adultos de Maine; Aliança das Crianças do Maine; Justiça Igual ao Maine; Coalizão dos Direitos dos Imigrantes do Maine; Preble Street; Ministério de Ação Comunitária Rural; Conselho Econômico de Sunrise County; Serviços de Saúde Mental Tri-County; YWCA Central Maine. As atividades financiadas por doações incluirão uma variedade de esforços de divulgação, como ir de porta em porta, distribuir folhetos, hospedar workshops e realizar campanhas de mídia social.

Os parceiros de financiamento do Maine Census Outreach Fund 2020 (MCOF 2020) incluem: The Betterment Fund, The Bingham Program, Broad Reach Fund, Doree Taylor Foundation, Bank of America NA, administrador, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Health Access Foundation e Sam L. Cohen Foundation. Os parceiros não financiadores incluem: Maine Philanthropy Center, Maine Women's Fund e United Way of Greater Portland.



# The Unfolding Scandal of Africa's Richest Woman May Play a Role in Explaining the Poverty Ravaging Angola



Isabel dos Santos, touted as the richest woman in Africa, has been the focus of a recent exposé by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) alleging significant financial corruption. The ICIJ's exposé is based on thousands of emails and documents that are said to shed light on a shady financial empire. The daughter of former president Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola, who ruled for 38 years until 2017, Isabel Dos Santos has a net worth of \$2 billion. Now her assets have been frozen and her fortune is under scrutiny by her father's successor, President João Lourenço. This move has surprised many, as the current president was in the inner circle of former President Dos Santos. The Attorney General of Angola held a press conference in January provisionally charging Isabel dos Santos with embezzlement and money laundering.

Isabel Dos Santos' fortune is based on rich underground resources such as oil and minerals. She headed Sonangol, the state oil company. Leaked emails indicate that she engaged in secret transactions of billions of dollars during her tenure. Following the media leaks indicating financial misconduct, some companies where Isabel Dos Santos was a shareholder have started selling shares, including the Bank of Portugal. The BBC has reported that Nuno Ribeiro da Cunha, one of the people named by the Angolan Attorney General as an accomplice in Isabel's business scheme, has been found dead in Lisbon. He managed the Sonangol account in EuroBic Bank. Isabel Dos Santos has filed a court case against the ICIJ, and has issued the following statement. "The allegations which have been made against me over the last few days are extremely misleading and untrue."

Despite being one of Africa's most resource-rich countries, the United Nations Human Development Index ranks Angola 149 in the world. Angola is the second largest oil producer in Africa and the fourth largest producer of diamonds, however two-thirds of the population lives on less than \$2.00 a day. Maine is home to several thousand immigrants from Angola. The corruption scandal exposes nepotism in Africa, and the extent to which many long-serving African presidents give free rein to family members to launder money and impoverish their countries.



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### **Work Authorization Assistance for Asylum Seekers at Hope House**

Story and Photos by Kathreen Harrison

With the uptick in arrivals of asylum seekers that began in the summer of 2019, Maine's local immigrant-led associations, their nonprofit allies, faith communities, and supporters around the state have stepped up their game to try and fill the gaps left by government in addressing their needs. Legal assistance, language assistance, transportation assistance, cultural integration assistance, material assistance for items not provided by General Assistance (beds, winter clothing, cooking pans, etc.), health support – all of this the newcomers have needed - and continue to need. And thanks to the kindness and tenacity of Mainers, at least some of the help required is being provided.

Hope Acts, a Portland-based nonprofit with a tiny staff, focused exclusively on addressing the needs of asylum seekers, is one of the organizations working harder than ever in order to help the recent arrivals. Hope

A family of four gets assistance with work authorization forms

Acts operates Hope House, the only residential program for adult asylum seekers in Maine, which houses 13 single adults at a time. "We would love to have room for everyone at Hope House have another building, say yes to everyone who walks through the door — but we do not have the resources," Hope House Executive Director Martha Stein said. But where there's a will to help, there's a way, and Hope Acts has found a way that makes a measurable difference for many.

From noon until 3:00 p.m. every Monday through Thursday, any asylum seeker needing help accessing services or understanding and completing documents can go to Hope House on Sherman Street in Portland for help through the Asylum Seeker Assistance Program (ASAP). The program is open to all asylum seekers, and assistance is free. Examples of assistance provided at Hope House are housing searches and applications, job searches and applications, reading and understanding English mail & documents, making appointments, finding other services and resources, and managing schedules. ASAP is staffed by social work interns from the University of Southern Maine, who receive clinical supervision from ASAP partner Gateway Community Services, as well as community volunteers, including a large group from the family mentoring group Welcoming the Stranger. On Wednesdays, volunteers assist newcomers in filling out complex work authorization application forms – the only day of the week when this assistance is available.

The Wednesday program was conceived during a conversation in summer 2019 between Carolyn Graney of Hope Acts and Nancy Markowitz of Welcoming the Stranger. Graney and Markowitz knew that Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP), the primary source of immigration help for asylum seekers in Maine for many years, was overwhelmed by the increased demand for legal services presented by the surge in new immigrants. Wanting to take something off ILAP's plate that didn't require attorneys, so ILAP could help more people, Markowitz suggested

reaching out to the extensive Welcoming the Stranger volunteer network for help. The volunteer network responded, and the program was launched.

"At first, no one knew we were offering work authorization assistance, and it was quiet - but now everyone comes. We have French, Portuguese, and Lingala interpreters available, including people on Workfare who live at Hope House. If you build it, they'll come!" said Markowitz. On an average week, volunteers help approximately 20 asylum seekers complete and submit their work authorization forms. And the help extends in both directions.

"Hope House is a positive, welcoming space for volunteers and for asylum seekers in need. The work is dynamic and has stretched me to learn in new ways," said Yana Davis, a social work intern from USM.

"I'm retired, and I don't feel comfortable not making some kind of contribu-

tion. It's a great way to help," said Joyce Branaman, a mentor with Welcoming the Stranger, who volunteers each Wednesday.

Hope House on Sherman Street, Portland

Since June 9, 857 asylum seekers have arrived in the City of Portland. Beginning life in Maine without English skills and permission to work, and often after experiencing trauma, is not something many people can do successfully without a good deal of help. For information about volunteering, please contact Carolyn Graney, the Hope Acts Program Manager, at carolyn@hopeacts.org or 207-274-6005.

To make a donation to Hope Acts, mail a check to Hope Acts, P.O. Box 7615, Portland, ME 04112, or donate online at www.hopeacts.org/give.

# Screening to save lives

Drs. Catherine McCrann and Christopher Kleeman from Northern Light Mercy Gastroenterology participated in the community screening event.

Ana Torres' decision to have her first colonoscopy three years ago may have saved her life. During the procedure doctors found and removed polyps that

could have turned cancerous.

For Ana, who moved to the United States from El Salvador 17 years ago, getting a colonoscopy was not as simple as seeking a referral from a primary care provider and showing up for the screening appointment. Like



many immigrants, obstacles like a lack of insurance and a language barrier have made it more difficult for her to get the care she needs.

Recognizing a need to improve access for this underserved population, Northern Light Mercy Hospital has found an innovative way to help people like Ana overcome the barriers they face to getting screened for colon cancer. A grant provided by the Linda Tallen and David Paul Kane Cancer Education and Research Foundation made it possible for Mercy to addresses an unmet need in the community for cancer education and screening among those over 50 who are relatively new to this country. Education, cost, transportation, and other variables that may prevent convenient access to screening were funded by the grant.

The first round of cancer screening for this underserved community began in 2016. Based on the outcomes of that effort (and the identification of more than a dozen pre-cancerous, at risk patients), a second wave of screening took place in December.

As in the previous effort, two colon cancer information sessions were held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Portland. One session was held in Spanish for Latin American immigrants, and the other session was attended by French-speaking African immigrants. Ana attended the Spanish-language session and was able to schedule her colonoscopy at the event. The cost of the colonoscopy and all prep materials were covered by the grant along with taxi vouchers and a hospital room for pre-colonoscopy prep for those in need.

While Northern Light Mercy Hospital and its healthcare foundation secured the grant funding, coordinated the information sessions, and performed the colonoscopies, the screenings would not have been possible without support from Sister Patricia Pora, a Sister of Mercy and director of the Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Portland. Sister Pora regularly travels around Maine to assist Latino immigrants with a variety of issues, and she served as a link between the hospital and the immigrant community.

"When this was offered by the gastroenterology team, I said 'yes, I'm sure there are people who can use it, because healthcare is an area that many of them don't have great access to," she says. "Some of them have been here for years and have never had a colonoscopy. And they're older adults."

Sister Pora followed up by phone with those who had scheduled colonoscopies to answer questions and describe some of the differences between healthcare in their home countries and the United States, which removed yet another barrier to accessing care.

Ana is grateful to Mercy for providing an opportunity to get screened. Last fall, she encouraged her husband to attend one of the November 2019 information sessions. He registered for a screening and recently had his first colonoscopy.

"He didn't want to do it," says Anna. "He's 51, so it's time."

While Mercy doesn't have immediate plans to expand the screenings, a similar approach could someday provide better access to mammograms and other screenings. For Catherine McCrann, MD, a gastroenterologist at Northern Light Mercy Gastroenterology who attended one of the two November sessions, this "back to basics" approach to medicine fuels her passion for making

"This is just good, clean medicine," says Dr. McCrann. "If you can take away all the barriers, like the language barrier and insurance barrier, you can help people stay healthy and prevent cancer. If detected early, it's truly curable. This is truly the Mercy mission."

Contributed by Northern Light Mercy Hospital

# From the Desk of Dr. Ahmed

**Parental Involvement in Decision Making** 

I am sure many students and families are asking, "How can I be involved in improving the schools?"

Parental input is particularly encouraged at this time of year, because Maine school superintendents and other school administrators present budgets for approval by their school boards at this time of year. Next, local municipal governments weigh in on the budgets,



and finally citizens get a chance to vote on whether or not to accept their district's budget. Since school programs, buildings, and numbers of staff depend on the outcomes of these votes, what happens at this time of year can have a big impact on education.

Each month, Let's Talk will focus on sayings that might sound funny or confusing to a new language learner. So if you have ever thought "What did they mean by that?" or "What are they trying to say?" this column is for you.

It has been a long, gray winter but do not fear...lots of green will appear nearby very soon. On March 17, many cities - especially those with large, Irish American populations - will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. People wish each other "the luck of the Irish" and celebrate by going to or marching in parades, wearing green, and even drinking green-colored beer. So enjoy the color of St. Patrick's Day. It might be the only green we see until spring!

Here are four idioms – expressions in which the meanings of the words are not the same as the meaning of the saying – which one might hear used in connection with love or friendship.

**Cross your fingers** — Hope that someone or something is successful

"Fatima studied very hard for the bar exam, so she is keeping her fingers crossed that she learned enough to pass the test.: **Break a leg** — A way to wish someone in the theater good luck with their performance

"Hugo rehearsed the lines for the lead in his high school musical and his whole family told him to break a leg at his au-

**Knock on wood** — An expression that is said while tapping on a surface, to avoid bad luck for future endeavors. "Sadia got a flu shot this year. So, knock on wood, she will not get sick this winter."

**Golden opportunity** — A chance that should not be missed

"Thierry was approached by a large, multi-national firm for a college internship. It was a golden opportunity that he could not refuse."

If you have questions about sayings you have heard Americans use that you don't understand, or if you have questions about American culture, please email your questions to Claudia at amjamboafrica3@gmail.com and "Let's Talk" will be happy to help.

Claudia Jakubowski has her Masters Degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

## **Healthcare in the US**

By Firdaws Hakizimana

So, March 8th is International Women's Day (IWD). Every year, IWD has a theme. In 2019, the theme was #BalanceForBetter. According to *The Telegraph*, the 2019 theme was "a nod to the growing global push for professional and social equality ... to encourage gender balance in boardrooms, in the media, and in wealth as a way for economies to thrive." The 2020 theme is #EachforEqual.

First, I want to point out that there is an International Men's Day as well, held every November 19. IMD also has a pretty important goal, "to celebrate positive male role models and to raise awareness of men's issues ... mental health, toxic masculinity, and the prevalence of male suicide." However, IMD is not the focus of what I'm going to be talking about in this column.



In 1908,15,000 women protested for equal rights in New York. International Women's Day was established in 1910 at the International Women's Conference. The year following the declaration of International Women's Day, women held their first rallies for equal rights in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, with other countries following soon after.

The 2020 theme, #EachforEqual, is all about inclusion. And 2020 is definitely the year to talk about inclusion. Historically, in the U.S. women first fought just to have the vote. Then, we fought for equal rights for people of color. Now, we can finally connect these and work toward inclusion for everyone.

International Women's Day is international in scope, however countries are at different places when it comes to gender equality. In Saudi Arabia, for instance, women have recently gained the right to drive - but even so, they still need permission from a male relative and/or husband to learn to drive. According to the World Economic Forum, there are 104 countries that still restrict what jobs women can get. Considering that there are 194 countries in the world, the fact that in 104 of them women can't have the same jobs as their male counterparts is insane!

Not only that, the United States - a country that holds so much international power and influence - rates surprisingly low on the Social Progress Index, not even making it into the ranks of the top twenty countries. Of course, if you think about it, this makes sense. We are the country where the Me Too Movement was founded, yet people have a hard time even acknowledging that there is a problem of equality in the U.S. We still haven't had a female president, vice president, head of the department of defense, or secretary of treasury. And let's not even get started with the Pink Tax (a specific tax and/or price increase that is placed only on female products)!

At the end of the day, my hope for the future is for inclusivity to become the norm. We need equality for women in order to move forward and succeed in addressing all the big issues that plague the world. After all, women make up about 50% of the world's population - by oppressing women we hold back half of humankind. To summarize, humans have been walking the earth for 200,000 years. Let's strive to make our next years the best possible.

> Firdaw Hakizimana is a stufent at Cape Elizabeth High School. She loves terrible puns, writing, and is one of a kind.

Here are some action steps I encourage you to take to let your voice be heard.

- Ask your child to comment on which school programs seem to work well
- Check in with teachers and ask them what resources they need in order to be more effective in serving students and families
- Meet with the superintendent and other school administrators and share your ideas about programs and resources.
- Collaborate with the superintendent and offer support
- Attend public hearings and express your ideas
- Make phone calls to school board members, city councilors, and state legislators. Let them know your thoughts about what children need in order to succeed.
- Speak with other parents and advocate for what you think is important
- If your municipality requires citizens to vote to ratify the school budget - please vote!



### Titi de Baccarat at UMVA

Story by Kathreen Harrison

"Art saved my life," said Titi de Baccarat on February 8, speaking to a circle of art aficionados who had gathered around him



Titi de Baccarat at UMVA

Photo | Steven Bridges

in a Union of Maine Visual Artists gallery, where his show titled 'Who is it?' had opened the previous night. Born in Gabon, forced to flee his country because of political persecution, de Baccarat arrived in Portland in February 2015 without financial resources, family, friends, or English."Art brought me friends, helps me survive – if art was taken from me, I would have nothing left. Art is my world," he told his listeners, who hung on his every word with rapt attention. De Baccarat often has that effect on people. Philosophical, personable, and deeply passionate about his work – both the man and his art inevitably engage viewers in lively exchanges. De Baccarat's work tackles a wide range of subjects - including sex trafficking, domestic violence, racism, the detention of asylum-seeking children, inequality, and

the loneliness of migration. "My art is not about beauty, it's about the message," he explained. "From youth I have always been attuned to injustice - the injustice I saw around me in my country of Gabon, and the injustice in the world beyond. In order to improve the world, we need to have the courage to talk about topics some people find hard to discuss. We need to see what we don't want to see, feel emotion because of what we see, and take action." De Baccarat stressed the importance of compassion - even for those with whom you have no personal connection. "It is important to think about others, make life better for the community, and collectively make change," he said. "One of the works in 'Who is it?' - a handbag with attached arms and hands he created from a pair of jeans and some fabric - references the detention centers near the Southern border, where children are held apart from their parents. A Trump administration lawyer has argued in court that it is acceptable for children to be held without items such as toothbrushes – so de Baccarat's handbag boasts several toothbrushes in a side pocket, with a hand holding a tube of toothpaste in a clear rebuke to the Administration. "Most kids in detention are not African, but I still feel compassion for them, and want to do something." Art is de Baccarat's way of doing something. He seeks to bring awareness, denounce, and provoke change. De Baccarat's artist statement reads: "My current works describe my experience as an immigrant in the United States: my pain, fear, uncertainty, and hope for my future here." And many of the works in 'Who is it?' include references to his African heritage. Life in the U.S. is a struggle for immigrants, with many working two or three jobs, for minimum wage, he explained. However, despite the challenges, de Baccarat has not lost sight of hope and of visions for the future. He dreams of creating a School of Imagination and Creativity for adults. Kids already have these qualities in full measure, he explained, but when people mature, too many lose the capacity to imagine, and to be themselves, he said. And that

> has implications for society. To de Baccarat, imagination and creativ-



ity are linked to correcting injustice, and to furthering a 'Humanity as one" world view. Who is it?" viewers might wonder if visiting the gallery would be depressing, but the whimsical nature of much of the brightly-colored artwork belies the intensity of the work. And this contrast of the playful with the subject of injustice is in itself purposeful, and resonates strongly for those willing to dive into de Baccarat's complex worldview." When we look at the evolution of the world, there is a lot of darkness and insecurity - but there is also enough light for us to keep hope and optimism -because the day always presides over the night. This light which announces a new day should make us believe that it is still possible to make our world a marvelous place, with more just societies, safer schools, communities of inclusion for all, more united families... if we take responsibility individually and collectively for improving things, it is possible,"said de Baccarat. Who Is it?' will be on view Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. through February 28. Union of Maine Visual Artists Gallery is at 516 Congress Street, Portland. Several raffles during the show will raise funds for the organization 'Survivor Speaks.





Alejandra Cuadra, Athena Lynch, Ashley Page

### Story and Photo by Kathreen Harrison

Maine College of Art's (MECA) inaugural Resilience Week, conceived by students, and dedicated to raising awareness and spurring dialogue around topics relating to racial, sexual, and gender inclusivity at MECA, took place between February 7-February 14 at MECA. The week's activities, which included a dynamic curated art exhibition with 23 participating artists, film screenings, workshops, talks, and children's programming, were organized by the Diversity Committee at MECA and the Students of Color Coalition.

Resilience Week was "a direct response to experiences and conversations among students of color," explained Alejandra Cuadra, who curated the show along with fellow student Ashley Page. They spoke of MECA's strengths, with its facilities, its studios, and its public engagement minor, but they also spoke of the challenges associated with attending MECA as a person of color. "It is difficult to be in a space where you don't see yourself," they agreed.

According to the mission statement of the exhibition, the intention was to "showcase the beauty and resilience of diversity while critiquing the Western art historical canon that perpetuates racist, sexist, and exclusionary pedagogy throughout art institutions." Lynch urged the decolonization of the curriculum and the inclusion of previously overlooked artists. "Leaving out artists of color from the curriculum is racist," she explained in an audio installation included in the exhibition (available on our website). "The art is there," added Cuadra. "You just need to open the door."

The exhibition's large mounted timeline, from Fall 2013 to the present, offered "a brief snapshot of events related to personal experiences in addition to the College's diversity and inclusion efforts told through the perspective of student leaders of color. Setbacks and milestones appear side-by-side." According to the timeline, setbacks include semesters when students of color chose to leave MECA. "These were talented students from across the country who came here to study, and experienced blatant racist encounters, racially motivated microaggressions, and unfair treatment," explained Athena Lynch, who played a key role in organizing Resilience Week. Positive milestones are many and include diversity trainings, the formation of the Students of Color Coalition and its predecessor, International People of Color Group – and Resilience Week.

The organizers commented on the hard, behind-the-scenes work involved in putting on the week, as well as how enormously gratifying it felt to see work by artists of color filling the halls of MECA. President Laura Freid said, "Promoting a culture of racial justice and social change is one of the five core goals that are being addressed through MECA's strategic planning process. I am inspired by the work that our Diversity Committee and Students of Color Coalition have brought to Resilience Week and to MECA." All signs point to a second annual Resilience Week in 2021.



### Young Maine Musician Angelikah Fahray has International Dreams

Story and Photos by Abigail Nelson

Portland is home to numerous, unique types of artists and creators. Angelikah Fahray, a 24-year-old singer-songwriter, has been a part of the

Portland artist community her whole life. She was among a lineup of outstanding local artists who performed on January 26 in the second annual Hear Here 2020 talent showcase at Merrill Auditorium, presented as a collaborative effort by Creative Portland and the City of Portland. Fahray captivated the audi-



ence with her powerful and entrancing voice.

Angelikah Fahray loved the experience of performing at Merrill just as much as the audience loved her. "It was the biggest production on the biggest stage. Working with the production team and getting to meet all these cool artists was probably the

coolest thing I've experienced in the music industry," she said.

Music and performing has always been a part of Fahray's life. Her father performed as a dancer in the Portland area and in other states as she was growing up. "We would always listen to

> music at the house and watch the Grammy Awards – anything having to do with music and performing," Fahray said.

> From a young age, she knew she wanted to pursue music. On and off over the years, she continued to foster that passion. Fahray sang around the house, at school talent shows, and for a few years performed with a cover band called Dream Runner.

It wasn't until 2018, she said, that she seriously began to pursue music as a career and write her own songs. She starts with a beat or with some notes, then works in the lyrics. Pulling from her own past experiences and relationships, for example, Fahray tries to formulate a story in her songs that explains those experiences or an experience she's imagined. "Growing up in Maine, where you have to work hard to make things

work, it brings out a very unique part in people's music that is different than what other artists come out with."

Fahray's emotions play the biggest role in her music, she said, crediting her Congolese heritage with her fire and passion to perform. Ultimately, she hopes her listeners will receive healing

from her music. "When I'm singing, I'm singing for my own healing. So hopefully, when you hear me, and the notes and the keys, and the melody, it tugs at your heartstrings."

Currently, she is working on some new music and creating a website to better connect with and expand her audience. Her goal is to succeed on the national, and then international, music scenes. In the meantime, Maine has been a great place for her to launch her career. "There's not a lot of people like me out there, in terms of a black female artist. There's a lot of space in Maine for what I do because there's not much of it out there," she explained.

For Fahray, music is part of her life every single day. It's her college and her job, all in one. Creating new music, making connections, building a website and a following, performing, and all the other tasks musicians face are hard work. "There's a lot to it," Fahray said. "But it all serves the big picture."

In the end, music is Fahray's passion, and she's in it for the long haul.

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### Justice for Women Lecture Series

March 25, 2020



The 2020 Justice For Women Lecture will be presented by **Emtithal "Emi" Mahmoud** of Sudan, an award-winning Sudanese-American slam poet, author, and the founder of the One Girl Walk.



The 2020 Courage is Contagious Award will be presented to **Blanca Santiago**.

Lee International, a major sponsor of this special event, encourages you to attend.

Register online for the lecture at the following:

http://mainelawcommunity.org/2020jfw

See a list of other exciting community events with Emi on Facebook.







## **Team207 African Night Coming Soon!**

#### Story and Photos by Abigail Nelson

Team 207 will present African Night 2020 on March 7, 4:30 p.m., at South Portland High School, 637 Highland Avenue. African Night will showcase the beauty of African cultures for the community. "One of our goals is to bring everyone together,

and also show everyone that Africa is not only about sadness and poverty," said Team207 co-founder Djamal Maldoum.For seven months, Maldoum, co-founder Casay Mohamed, and their team have been planning and preparing. African Night will feature food, dancing, motivational speakers, poetry, singing, art, and a fashion show. The event, which includes

out-of-state participants, provides a platform for each presenter to display individual artistic talents. Milly Gladys "A lot of people, when you talk about Africa, they think it is the same place. But there are many countries," said Milly Gladys, who is a model. Team 207 has found representatives of different areas of Africa and asked them to showcase their cultures. "Maine has

so much life, but it's hidden in houses, churches, and mosques," said Casay Mohamed. Team207 members hope this event will energize people who may have drifted away from cultural traditions for a variety of reasons to embrace where they are from, while showcasing the beauty of African cultures.

"Here in America, people are so welcoming. Everyone is there to help you and pitch in to grow your idea more," said Maldoum. "But there is still some racism. Not just like black-white racism, but black-black as well." By holding this event, Team207 wants to break stereotypes and celebrate the continent's variety of cultures. Although several of the performers and models have participated in similar, African-based events in the past, Team207's African Night will be their first time in a show of this size. The organizers hope African Night will become an annual event that takes place in different locations up and down the northeastern coastline. They plan to present the

show in Boston next year.

Tickets cost \$5.00 and are available in advance at afn-byteam 207.com or at the door.

Left Photo: Hafsa and Yahya Hussein

Right Photo: Prince







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