

Cultural Connections Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2022
12:05 – 1:06 pm

1. Call to Order

Margaret Loret, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Margaret at 12:05 am.

2. Roll Call
Chair

Elizabeth Berry, Vice

Members present: Elizabeth Berry, Shanta Bist, Eric Drouart, Samba Halkose, Wei Lin, Margaret Loret, Deepa Mangalat, Nonny Egbuono, Donna Marceau, Gloria Timmons, Sandra Pratt.

Guests: Al Baymor, Emily Leslie, Sonia Prince.

Excused absences: Rosemary Ford, Bernadette Melton-Plante, Jen Hosking, Eliane Urgiles.

3. Approval of the February 23rd Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

4. Update on the Ukrainian Conflict
American

Al Baymar, Ukrainian

Al Baymar, a Ukrainian American living in Nashua, has been advocating for the Ukrainian cause since the beginning of the Russian invasion. He gave a brief overview of the assistance efforts undertaken in the US and in Nashua, expressed his gratitude for spontaneous help offered by Americans to his fellow countrymen in need, particularly Poland that admitted almost 3million Ukrainian refugees so far. In response to the participants' request for donation opportunities, Al suggested sending donations to the following reputable agencies:

Humanitarian aid: <https://razomforukraine.org/donate/>

Armor: <https://uaccusa.org/supportukraine>

Nashua Church: Myroslav Biley, Slavic Congregation Pastor at Gate City Church, (603) 883-8273, info@gatecitychurch.org

5. Club Richelieu Library Event

Eric Drouart, President
Club Richelieu of Nashua

Eric invited members of the CCC to a lecture to be offered at the Nashua Library, *The Eugenics Movement vs. French-Canadians in Early 20th Century New England* to be held on March 24. The presenter, David Vermette, author of *A Distinct Alien Race*, will discuss the eugenics movement of the

early 20th century and its theory and practice around the French-Canadians in the U.S. and Canada. Co-sponsored by Club Richelieu of Nashua as part of the library's celebration of the Francophonie Month. This is a virtual event that will not be recorded.

Sonia Prince added that also as part of the *Francophonie Month*, you can watch eight bakers as they compete head-to-head in the first ever *Fleur Délices Baking Challenge* by Franco Foods. The event is taking place on April 9th at 6pm at the Anheuser Busch Biergarten. There will be catered food, door prizes, and the chance to watch as these eight bakers create their own cake representation of a Francophonie country.

Tickets can be bought at <https://facnh.com/fleur-delices-challenge/com>.

6. Individual Account Development Program Director

Emily Leslie, Program

**International Institute of
NH**

The IDA Program is a matched savings program that helps participants identify financial goals, develop healthy savings habits and invest in their future.

The IDA Program offered by the International Institute of New England is designed for refugees, asylum seekers, SIV card holders, Cuban/Haitian Entrants or immigrants otherwise eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Programs. Applicants have to meet residence requirements (need to be in their first five years in the U.S. if interested in buying a car), arrived in the U.S. on, or after, March 1, 2015 (if interested in saving for a home, education or small business), and they have to be employed.

IINE's matching funds are not loans and do not need to be repaid. The program is supported by federal funding.

Contact Emily Leslie at eleslie@iine.org or call 603-647-1500 for details.

Nonny Egbuono thanked Leslie for the presentation, and noticed that the Interfaith Council is proactive in identifying affordable housing for Nashua residents who need it. The Council meets with men and women affected by rising costs of housing as well as with the City officials to remedy the situation and make sure that nobody is homeless in Nashua because alleviating homelessness is what makes Nashua a welcoming city.

7. Multicultural Festival Chair, Festival Committee

Elizabeth Berry, Co-

Elizabeth announced that Mayor Donchess asked the Cultural Connections Committee to organize this year's multicultural festival as was the case last year.

Elizabeth Berry and Sandra Pratt have graciously agreed to co-chair the committee to be held during the *Welcoming Week* in the middle of September. Elizabeth has already researched other festivals taking place in NH in September to avoid possible schedule conflict, and the plans are for September 17 at Greeley Park.

The 2019 and 2021 Festival Committee members will receive a notice about the planning meeting from Elizabeth and Sandra this week.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Next meeting will be held on April 27 at noon. All subsequent CCC meetings will be held at noon to accommodate those members who have schedule conflict at 9 AM this semester.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm.