

LANCASTER

one

WORLD

FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Welcome to the One World Festival

Dear friends,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the One World Festival!

What started out as a happy coincidence, has evolved to become what we know will be a memorable community gathering.

As we went through the planning process, we were thrilled with the level of community support we received. Sponsors, community partners, vendors, performers and volunteers offered their support enthusiastically and wholeheartedly. Our sincere thanks to all of you.

We truly believe that this event will be a wonderful learning opportunity, will broaden our knowledge of people, and will create a sense of universal belonging.

It is our hope to continue to bring our community together in future years and we invite you to join us.

We wish you a fun and awesome experience of unity at this event!

The One World Festival Committee
OneWorldFestivalLancaster.org

The song for the
One World Festival
“When We Choose Love”

Words by Tom Daniels
Music by Maurice Saylor

Performers

Jarrold Lentz, singer

After graduating with a theater degree from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Jarrod went on to perform around the world, primarily for Disney. Some highlights include singing in The Festival of the Lion King, singing with the Voices of Liberty, hosting the American Idol Experience, and singing with a live big band in Tokyo for four years.

In addition to performing in events around central PA, Jarrod works in the marketing department for From the Top, a non-profit that supports and showcases the best high school aged classical musicians in the country.

Roger Lentz, keyboard

Mr. Lentz holds a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees and has completed Ph.D. Coursework in Voice, Piano, Music Education and arranging from The University of Rochester, Eastman School of Music.

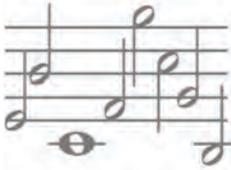
His 22 year classroom teaching credits include Rochester Schools, Eastman School of Music and Penn State Harrisburg. He has arranged and orchestrated 12 albums and has choral music published with five US companies. He maintains a private studio of 30 students and continues to compose and perform for special projects and really enjoys working with his son, Jarrod.

“When We Choose Love”

One World Festival Theme Song

Lyrics by Tom Daniels

Music by Maurice Saylor



We come and we go
From different places
With many different names
And many different faces



When we look at each other
What do we see?
Do you look for you?
Do I look for me?

Give me your hand
And I'll give you mine
Let's stay in this moment
Let's give it some time
For hope still flies
On the wings of a dove
If only we choose For peace
If only we choose for love

If we seek with our mind
Not just our eyes
Then perhaps we'll come to know
Those subtle ties that bind

Now our journey begins
As sister and brother
When we see ourselves
In the eyes of each other

Give me your hand
And I'll give you mine
Let's live in this moment
Time after time
And we will fly
On the wings of a dove
When we choose peace
When we choose love



Then we will fly
On the wings of a dove
When we choose peace
When we choose love



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Let's Grow the One World Fund

The Fund will be utilized towards costs associated with running the festival as well as for future multicultural activities that will bring our community together!



One World Swag Store

Purchases will go towards the One World Fund and will be used for festival costs and future multicultural activities to bring our community together! Purchase an event t-shirt and/or recipe book filled with cuisine from around world.

Visit the One World Festival registration booth now!



Our heartfelt thank you to the following organizations that have contributed time, talent and financial resources to make this festival a success.

One World Festival Committee

Deepa Balepur
Indian Organization of Lancaster County
Kris Bradley, *Namespark*
Pete Byrne
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society
Tom Daniels
Lancaster Irish American Cultural Society
Dorothy Dulo
Rafiki Africa Foundation
Gabrielle Hackman
Lancaster Irish American Cultural Society

Brad Kenyon, *Aurora Films*
Maurice Saylor, *Composer*
Jenny Schulder
Jewish Community Alliance of Lancaster
Mukaram Syed
Islamic Community Center
Sandra Valdez
Spanish American Civic Association
Dr. Nikitas Zervanos
Hellenic Cultural Society

Organizing Partners

Hellenic Cultural Society
Indian Organization of Lancaster County
Islamic Community Center of Lancaster
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Lancaster Irish American Cultural Society
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society
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Krishna Indian Fashion House
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The African Community in Lancaster County

The earliest Africans to settle in Lancaster are recorded to have arrived in the late 1950s to early 1960s. They arrived in Lancaster from New York after migrating from Ethiopia. These early African immigrants chose Lancaster due to their friendships with the religious congregations in Lancaster that supported missions and missionaries in Africa. The Mennonite churches in Lancaster had participated in different missions in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Kenya. As the missionaries returned to Lancaster and shared the stories of their friends in Africa, invitations were made to Africans to visit Lancaster. The Africans came to Lancaster to receive Pastoral training, share about their work in Africa, and to attend college.

In the 1970s and 1980s more Africans moved from other states within the USA to Lancaster to take up residence and to attend college. Lancaster was very attractive to the Africans due to the lower cost of living and the friendships they had established through the missionaries. The 1990s saw a big influx of African immigrants, especially Kenyans and Ethiopians. From 2005 another wave of African refugee immigrants started arriving in Lancaster. A bigger population of African refugees arrived in Lancaster from 2010 onward. Lancaster became known as a welcoming city for African refugees who needed a new, loving home.

Currently the African community in Lancaster County represents many African countries and cultures, including Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and other African countries. The African community is represented by organized groups that bring them together based on different but common interests. Some of these groups are the Lancaster Christian Fellowship, the African Community Church of Lancaster, the African Festival, the Annual Goat Roast, and the Ethiopian Church. Most African countries represented in Lancaster have at least one annual event that brings them together to celebrate and share their heritage and culture.

The African Festival in Lancaster was founded in 2007 with a mission to promote and bring awareness of the diverse and rich cultures and heritage in the African continent. For the past 14 years it has been a place to celebrate and enjoy the richness of the African culture. The event draws African artists, dancers, business owners, and community from the entire East Coast region. Rafiki Africa leads the planning and coordination of the African Festival in Lancaster.

Rafiki Africa, rafikiafrica.org, is non-profit organization that works in Kenya to reduce the cycle of poverty in rural families. They do this by providing holistic and sustainable education, economic development, and health care services. Rafiki Africa also brings awareness about the continent of Africa through local events such as the Rafiki African Festival. The organization enjoys support from businesses, individuals, and churches in Lancaster County.

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The Greek Community in Lancaster County

The earliest recorded evidence of Greek immigrants in Lancaster County dates to 1896 when two enterprising young Greek immigrants arrived from the greater Pittsburgh area to establish a confectionary business in the 100 block of North Queen Street. In 1905, the newly-established Animal Trap Company of America in Lititz hired a group of Greek immigrants; the numbers quickly swelled to include 70 regular Greek employees. In the meantime, more Greek immigrants arrived in Lancaster. By mid-1909, the Lititz Greeks who did not return to their homeland found better paying jobs in Lancaster and Reading. By 1921, there were more than 200 Greek immigrants in Lancaster, including a growing number of families; enough to establish the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church at 221 South Queen Street, central to where most of the Greeks were residing.

The Greeks, enterprising by nature, eventually started many of their own businesses including restaurants, confectionaries, night clubs, bakeries, ice cream parlors, florists, peanut stands, shoe repair, barber shops, hat cleaning, grocery stores, dry cleaning, a movie theater, and even a candy factory. Many more worked in Lancaster's factories, as cooks and waiters, and also as restaurant and hotel managers.

The church became the center of life for the immigrants, where they would celebrate many secular and religious holidays. A major part of Greek immigrant life was the "name-day" celebration, during which time relatives and friends would visit the person named after the Patron Saint who was being honored that day. They would be served a sweet with coffee or tea, a cold glass of water, or something more and enjoy the comradery. Sometimes a special time was designated, and the invitees would enjoy an elaborate celebration with traditional foods, pastries, and beverages, and often with music and dance.

It was important to preserve the Greek language and the Greek culture. Thus, attendance at Greek School, "the school after school," was encouraged. Greek language newspapers kept the immigrants current with events in their native land. Greek American societies, such as the American Hellenic Progressive Association (AHEPA), were developed to assist their assimilation into American society. There was also the Philoptochos ("Friends of the Poor") Society, created by the ladies during the depression to help fellow parishioners in desperate need. Today, their philanthropy extends into the greater community. The Greek Orthodox Youth of America or GOYA was established to encourage parishes to organize socials that might lead to courtships and marriages and help preserve Greek Orthodoxy. The vast majority of Greek Americans acquired a higher education and today are well represented in the business community as well as in the healing, medical, legal, and teaching professions.

The Greek Church moved to Hershey Avenue in 1960 and now consists of a mix of ethnic groups, to include the countries of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Many more are converts, most of them by having married an Orthodox person. The Greek-American's identity is preserved by such groups as the Hellenic Cultural Society and the Greek Food Festivals, which promote the Greek cuisine and the Greek culture.

Source: Nikitas J. Zervanos, M.D.



Sharing the Gospel of Christ in the Lancaster area since 1921.

Proud supporter of the One World Festival

Join us on the weekend of November 5 & 6 for our Annual Greek Bazaar! Enjoy the traditional chicken/pastitsio platter, consisting of Greek style chicken leg, pastitsio, spanakopita, Greek salad, and roll. Pastry options include Baklava, Variety Box, Kourambiethes, Koulourakia, Finikia, Honey Balls, and Rice Pudding.

Our *Gyrofest* spring festival is a one-day event on the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend.

We invite you to join us at the Greek Bazaar or Gyrofest to learn more about the Orthodox Christian Faith as well as the diverse cultures, food, and music associated with our parish community! A third of the proceeds from the Greek Bazaar and Gyrofest go to charity, funding various philanthropic organizations that benefit our Lancaster community and beyond – including our church's Food Box Distribution to families in need, every other Thursday morning throughout the year.





A purpose for all people.

At the core of our purpose—to build better lives and communities—are the values that guide us to be intentional about diversity, equity, and inclusion. We do the work every day to diversify our leadership, empower all teammates, and fight for the opportunities we all deserve. Because we believe a culture where we can live and contribute our authentic selves is a stronger one.



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The Asian Indian Community of Lancaster County

Asian Indian immigrant settlement in Lancaster County began in the late 1960s with immigrants coming to the United States of America from India and settling all across the USA, including Central Pennsylvania. Indian immigrants sought advanced education, better job opportunities, and safe and comfortable lives. Lancaster County offered everything that the newcomers wanted.

Early Indian settlers were attracted to Lancaster County's farming and food processing-related research jobs, followed by technical and industrial jobs, especially in the engineering and manufacturing sectors. In the early 1970s, political and social unrest in Uganda, created by that country's dictator, caused several refugees of Indian origin to migrate to Lancaster County with the assistance of the Mennonite Churches of Ephrata and surrounding towns. Those refugees were offered employment in furniture manufacturing, foundries, banks, and other sectors. Many of the families that settled in that era flourished economically and socially.

In the mid and late 1970s, engineers and technicians of Indian origin were attracted to the government jobs in the State capital, as well as in other technical and manufacturing sectors. Many chose to live in Lancaster County because of the availability of affordable housing, a clean environment, and good school education. Medical, manufacturing, and research laboratory related jobs in the City of Lancaster and surrounding local boroughs and townships led to further influx of Asian Indians.

In the early 1980's, several families moved to Lancaster County from nearby Dauphin County and from as far as the state of Illinois for better opportunities in hospitality-related businesses. Subsequently, during the mid 1980's and early 1990's, more engineering, technical, and medical service (especially doctors) opportunities continued attracting many families to move in from other counties and states.

In the 1990's and early 2000's technical experts in information technology (IT) fields were recruited in various business, banking, and manufacturing sectors. Lancaster General Health's initiatives to expand health related services attracted medical professionals of all specialties. These new settlers contributed and augmented the cultural richness of Lancaster County. Students from local surrounding areas and foreign countries were enrolled at Millersville University, F&M College, Elizabethtown College, and other local educational institutions. Lancaster County provided the settlers with excellent opportunities to grow in their careers and continued providing better financial opportunities, housing, education, and a friendly and supportive community environment. The local folks were honest, trustworthy, and hard-working. Most of these families who have settled have been welcomed by Lancaster area's local communities and have enjoyed living here.

The Indian Organization of Lancaster County, www.iolpa.org, was founded in 2007. Its mission is to facilitate and promote the richness and diversity of Indian culture and heritage in Lancaster County while integrating into the fabric of the local community. This organization has drawn support from all sections of Lancaster's residents irrespective of their religious, ethnic, social, or economic backgrounds.

Source: Deepa Balepur



IOLCPA.ORG

INDIAN ORGANIZATION OF LANCASTER COUNTY

PROUD ORGANIZER OF THE
ONE WORLD FESTIVAL

WE DEEPLY CARE ABOUT OUR LANCASTER
COUNTY COMMUNITY AND ARE COMMITTED TO
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The Irish Community in Lancaster County

The earliest immigrants with Irish roots to settle in Lancaster County were the Scots Irish, who arrived in the early part of the 18th century, settling in the northwest part of what was then Lancaster County, but is now Dauphin County, and in the southern part of Lancaster County. Pennsylvania was an attractive destination for early emigrants. It offered a free government, fertile soil, a temperate climate, and opportunities for trade and commerce. A common thread of the Irish people who settled here is that they were reminded of home by the lush green of the landscape, meticulously kept farms, and the sight of large horse teams tilling the soil.

The Scots Irish themselves came from the northern part of Ireland, but were not truly Irish in their culture, religion, and ethos. The term Scots Irish is an American term and is not used in Ireland or Scotland. During political and religious upheaval in Ireland and England in the early 17th century, the largest and most influential Irish landowners in the north of Ireland were forced to flee. Known as “The Flight of the Earls”, this exodus left the northern province of Ulster devoid of people, leadership, and commerce. The English throne quickly moved to fill the void, offering large tracts of land there for very reasonable prices, and the Scots were quick to oblige. Thus, the province of Ulster over time became as much Scottish as Irish.

A hundred years later, further conflicts with the English caused this hardy people to emigrate to America in great numbers, and their influence here is undeniable. They count among their descendants five Presidents, several Governors, and other notables in all fields and professions. They populated the militias and were a large factor in the western expansion of the country at that time.

The next waves of people were much fewer and came to Lancaster just before and after famine in Ireland around 1850. This is a mix of people from all parts of Ireland. Mostly unskilled laborers and farmers, there is not much information available about them.

A more recent example of Irish influence is the ever-present Irish Pub! What self-respecting town or city doesn't have its fair share of these places, where a pint and the laughter of good friends go hand in hand? Some longtime neighborhood establishments are O'Halloran's and Brendee's in Lancaster and McLeary's in Marietta. More recently, and created with Irish ownership, Annie Bailey's and Tellus 360 have added tremendously to downtown Lancaster's nightlife.

The Lancaster Celtic Arts Foundation, the Doherty Petri School of Irish Dance, the Hooley School of Irish Dance, and the Celtic Arts Center of Lancaster are very influential in keeping and growing the traditional Irish dance and music genres. They host the annual Rose and Shamrock Festival, which features dance and music competitions as well as Irish art, food, and concerts.

The Lancaster Irish American Cultural Society, www.liacs.org, has been in existence since 2008 and provides regular meetings, cultural presentations, luncheons, and trips that explore our Irish American history and culture. The Society welcomes people from all backgrounds into membership.

Source: Thomas P. Daniels



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE

Céad míle fáilte – One hundred thousand welcomes – is the traditional Irish greeting that we in the Lancaster Irish American Cultural Society extend to anyone who wishes to learn more about Irish culture and history.

Officially established in 2008, our organization was created with the vision of celebrating and sharing the history and culture of Ireland, from its ancient past to its contemporary present. Most, but not all, of our members have some Irish roots. We welcome all people, as there are few corners of the world the Irish have not in some way touched. Our organization has no religious nor political bias. We do endeavor to contribute to our community through designated charitable organizations. Most of all, we are friends who care about each other, and we have managed to have a lot of fun together since March 2008.

LIACS is proud to be one of the organizing communities of the One World Festival. Our own Tom Daniels wrote the lyrics for the One World song, to be premiered at the festival, and our own Gabrielle Hackman was the Chair and driving force behind the festival's recipe book.

We welcome this opportunity for all of us of Irish ancestry to come out and show why we love Lancaster. Stop by to see us at the LIACS booth – we'll wish you céad míle fáilte.

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Celtic Martins.....	Irish Music
Doherty Petri School of Irish Dance.....	Irish Dance
Introductions and Welcome Festival Committee	
Shree Academy of Arts.....	Indian Dance
Natyashala School of Dance.....	Indian Dance
George Papazekos.....	Greek Instrumental Music
Natyashala School of Dance.....	Indian Dance
Hispanic Dance Medley	Hispanic Dance
Jarrold Lentz.....	Vocalist, One World Song
<i>Lyrics may be found on page 5 of the program book</i>	
Sir Dominique Jordan.....	Hip Hop/Poetry/Spoken Word
Greek Dancers.....	Greek Dance
Byzantine Cantors.....	Musical Chant
Natyashala School of Dance.....	Indian Dance
Mister Motivation.....	Spoken Word
Rhythm Dance Studio: Girls.....	Indian Dance
Rhythm Dance Studio: Boys.....	Indian Dance
Jarrold Lentz.....	Vocalist, One World Song
<i>Lyrics may be found on page 5 of the program book</i>	
Festival Sponsor Remarks	
Natyashala School of Dance.....	Yoga Dance
Ashwini Sathe's Classical Kathak Dance Group.....	Indian Dance
Black Diamond All Star Dance.....	African Dance/Drumming
Concluding Remarks	

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The Islamic Community in Lancaster County

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Islam is one of the major Abrahamic faiths, with a global following. Its followers arrived in Lancaster County as early immigrants from Europe and Africa, representing various ethnicities, races, and cultures and speaking different languages. Islam was active in Lancaster as far back as 1835, when a copy of the first English translation of the Quran was printed in Lancaster by Roswell & McCleery. In April of this year, a copy of this 1835 printing was acquired at auction and added to the permanent collection of the Lancaster County Historical Society, LancasterHistory.org.

It is difficult to estimate the exact sizes of the various Muslim communities in Lancaster County as religious affiliation is not captured by the Census and alternate membership models. Nonetheless, the county is not only home to a long-standing African- American Muslim community but also has a long history of welcoming immigrants and refugees, many of whom are Muslims escaping political instability and ensuing schisms in their native countries.

At present, Lancaster's Muslims enrich the county as entrepreneurs, medical doctors, IT professionals, engineers, teachers, business owners, artists, factory workers, farmers, and other endeavors. Others offer local and international culinary tastes at various diners and ethnic restaurants.

Lancaster is a favorite tourist destination for Muslims from around the world, especially from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Malaysia. Local Amish farms offer Halal organic produce and meat, and even camel milk to Muslim customers who regularly visit from places as far as New York, New Jersey, and Virginia. Every year the Eid Al-Adha festival draws Muslims to Lancaster's Amish farms to offer sacrifices commemorating the actions of Prophet Abraham, peace be upon him.

The Islamic Community Center of Lancaster, iccl.alminaret.com, was established in April 2013 to help with the growing needs of the area's diverse Muslim community. It has partnered with other religious and social organizations to address various needs in the community including poverty, education, food availability, living accommodations, reentry into the workforce, access to healthcare, and prison chaplaincy and literature services.

The Center is open for spirituality, prayers, and rituals. It is a popular destination for local students, academic professionals, historians, other faith groups, tourists, and visitors by appointment.

Source: Mukaram Syed



ISLAMIC CENTER OF LANCASTER

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كولمى سوغ

Karibu

xush kelibsiz

پخیر

mirëpritur

ပိတ်ဆုံ

bi xêr haf

Tu b- xêr haf ye

ようこそ

Sveiki atvykę

Xush kelibsiz



Islamic Community

Center of Lancaster

The Italian Community in Lancaster County

In 1791, only eight of the 29,000 people living in Philadelphia had been born in Italy. By 1850, the number of Italian-born immigrants in all of Pennsylvania was just 172. By 1900 there were 66,655 Italian-born immigrants in Pennsylvania according to the census. Italian immigration to the U.S peaked in 1907, leading to an increase of native-born Italians living in Pennsylvania to 226,000 by 1930.

The reasons for Italian emigration are many and varied. Economics, poverty, ecological disasters, and the dream of a good life led many to America. Most of the Italian emigrants who settled in Pennsylvania between 1880 and 1930 were male, between the ages of fourteen and forty, and from Southern Italy and Sicily.

The greater Lancaster census of 1880 lists the first Italian immigrant families to be identified in Lancaster city and county. It was not until the year 1910 that names familiar in today's Italian-American community began to appear in both the city and its surrounding areas.

As the number of Italian immigrants in Lancaster grew, a community began to coalesce around the church. Saint Anthony's, in the eastern part of the City, then a German-speaking church, established an Italian mission church in its basement. By 1922, Saint Anthony's church had become the "Italian parish" as the Germans had moved to "Cabbage Hill". At about the same time, the Italian immigrants, concerned about the health and welfare of their community, formed a mutual relief society, the Mutual Relief Association of Santo Innocenzo. In 1929, members of the Italian community formed a local lodge of the Order of Sons of Italy, the purpose of which was to support obtaining U.S. citizenship, provide health and death benefits, and encourage social and cultural activities.

In 1932, several leaders of the Italian community formed the Italian-American Citizens Club to serve as a meeting place to socialize, to continue traditions brought from their native land, and to promote social awareness of their newly adopted country. This club served its membership for over sixty-five years until a decline in membership and participation forced its closing. During its life span, the organization created a Citizenship School to help immigrants from many countries gain citizenship and endorsed and supported the creation of a bocce league, which is still active after 44 years. The club also strongly supported the creation and placement of a bust of Christopher Columbus to reflect on the historical achievements of the explorer and to call attention to the contributions of the Italian community to the city. The bust now resides in Lennox Lane, next to the county courthouse.

Subsequent to the dissolution of the Lancaster Italian-American Citizens Club, members of the Italian community met to discuss the formation of an organization dedicated to Italian culture. From these discussions, the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society, www.lancaster-italian-cultural-society.org, was formed. Its objectives are to promote Italian culture and heritage, sponsor Italian cultural activities, achieve a broader understanding of Italian values and heritage, and foster pride among Italian-Americans based on their heritage.

Source: James J. Lombardo, *A Brief History of the Italian-American Community in Lancaster, Pennsylvania*, Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. 109, No. 1, 2ff



Viva la Bella Italia!

The Lancaster Italian Cultural Society (LICS) was founded in 1998 to share an appreciation and awareness of the Italian culture and heritage with our membership and with the Lancaster community. We did this by offering Italian-themed educational programs, language and cooking lessons, events, and trips. In addition, we sponsor artistic and cultural activities of Italian origin which are open to all.

The Lancaster Italian Cultural Society promotes a greater understanding of the social mores and the values of the Italian heritage. By doing so we develop a greater sense of pride in Italian-Americans for their Italian ancestry and traditions, with special emphasis upon educating Italian-American youth. Among our educational activities are sponsoring scholarships, art awards, and recognition for community service.

Membership in the Society is open to anyone who has an interest in Italian culture, regardless of your country of origin.

For more information about the Society, see

<https://www.lancaster-italian-cultural-society.org>

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In Lancaster, Pennsylvania

On June 2, 1925, the Red Rose Chapter of the Order of AHEPA was chartered through the efforts of members of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Community who envisioned a Philhellenic enhancement of the Greek immigrant presence in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

As we celebrate the *2022 Our World Festival* and the diversity of Lancaster County, we lift up and honor the memory of these pioneers:

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The Jewish Community in Lancaster County

Jews settled in Lancaster in four main waves. First, in 1740, German Jewish merchant and entrepreneur Joseph Simon established a trading post in what is now Penn Square. By the 1840's German Jewish peddlers began settling here, and by the late 19th Century immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe added to the diversity of Jewish settlers. In the mid-20th Century came people escaping and surviving the Holocaust.

Simon's arrival and his 1747 purchase of land for a cemetery with his business associate, Isaac Nunez Henriques, mark Lancaster as one of the oldest Jewish communities in the United States. This burial ground on Liberty Street between Lime and Shippen Streets contains at least six burials from the colonial period and is still used by Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, Lancaster's Reform Jewish Congregation. Lancaster's colonial Jewish community was small and fluid, made up of relatives and business associates of Simon who traded with native Americans as far west as the Mississippi Valley. His death in 1804 marks the end of Lancaster's colonial Jewish community.

In the early 1800's Jewish peddlers from Philadelphia made their way to Lancaster. As trade grew, many settled and established various types of businesses. By 1855 there was a large enough Jewish population for twenty-one men to organize a congregation. When Pennsylvania chartered Congregation Shaarai Shomayim in 1856, there was no Rabbi and no synagogue. Members worshipped in their homes or business places. By 1867 the congregation built its first synagogue on the southwest corner of Orange and Christian Streets. In 1884 they hired their first ordained Rabbi and in 1888 they voted to become a Reform Jewish Congregation. Within three decades, they had outgrown this space and in 1896 dedicated the congregation's current home on the northwest corner of James and Duke Streets.

These early Jews who came to Lancaster were largely from Germany. By the late 19th Century, Jews from Eastern Europe and Russia joined them and established several small Orthodox congregations near their homes in Lancaster's southeast area. One of them, Congregation Degel Israel, chartered in 1896, continues as Lancaster's Orthodox Jewish congregation in its current home on Columbia Avenue.

The fourth wave of immigrants was from Nazi Germany and occupied countries. Some escaped before the Holocaust; others came later, to make a new life after great suffering. Over 40 families passed through or settled in Lancaster at this time.

In 1945 Congregation Beth El, a Conservative Jewish Congregation, was established on Lime Street. It moved to its current home in East Hempfield Township in 2002. Today these three congregations are the center of Lancaster County's Jewish life. In 2003 a local branch of the Hasidic Chabad was established, and in 2013 it opened the Chabad Jewish Enrichment Center on Harrisburg Pike near Franklin and Marshall College.

From the beginning, Lancaster has welcomed and absorbed Jews into its community. In their many occupations, as neighbors, and as community volunteers, members of the Jewish community have contributed to the growth and vitality of Lancaster.

The Jewish community of
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The Latino Community in Lancaster County

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Puerto Rican students, laborers, cigar makers, trades people, merchants, pro-Puerto Rican independence organizers, and refugees migrated from Puerto Rico and settled in Pennsylvania.

Today the Hispanic community represents a full 40% of the population of the City of Lancaster. This extraordinary statistic reflects a vigorous pattern of growth stretching back to the 1940's, when small groups of experienced but unemployed farm workers from Puerto Rico left their families behind to become migrant workers in Lancaster County's rich agricultural fields. When they arrived, there were no accommodations for their wives and children; many of the men lived in barns or the bunkhouses of their employers. As opportunities opened over the next several decades for better work in manufacturing industries, hotels, restaurants, and poultry processing plants, families were reunited and the community quickly grew.

Demographics shifted again in the 1970s as an influx of new arrivals from other Hispanic cultures came seeking refuge from political unrest and brutal poverty in Mexico and Central America. Lancaster's Hispanic community found itself diversifying as families seeking hope and opportunity arrived from Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, and Peru.

During this time, there was an urgent need in the Latino community to create a civic infrastructure to help struggling families integrate into the social and economic fabric of Lancaster. Churches played an important role in providing these early services, particularly Catholic Social Services (now Catholic Charities), but more was needed as the Latino population expanded. In 1971 a group of community leaders came together and formed the Spanish American Civic Association (SACA). The group quickly organized to provide a central community focus, El Centro Hispano Community Center, which officially opened its doors to the Hispanic community on November 1, 1973.

Over the last 40-plus years, El Centro Hispano has been a consistent and stable source for help and support for two generations of Latinos seeking a better life. With an expanding scope of services, connections to the larger human services community, and bilingual services to help ease the transition, El Centro has become a source of pride, comfort, and reliability to individuals and families when they needed it most, and its impact has been felt both in local neighborhoods and the greater City of Lancaster. A notable contribution was the work of dedicated El Centro Hispano volunteers to create SACA Development Corporation in 1984; its successful accomplishments in neighborhood revitalization have led to the creation of equity wealth through home ownership and economic development.

Another invaluable community resource that arose from the El Centro Hispano community is SACA Broadcasting, "WLCH Radio Centro". Long recognized for its bilingual public radio broadcasting throughout Lancaster and York counties, WLCH Radio Centro informs the community about news and current events and provides educational and cultural programs.



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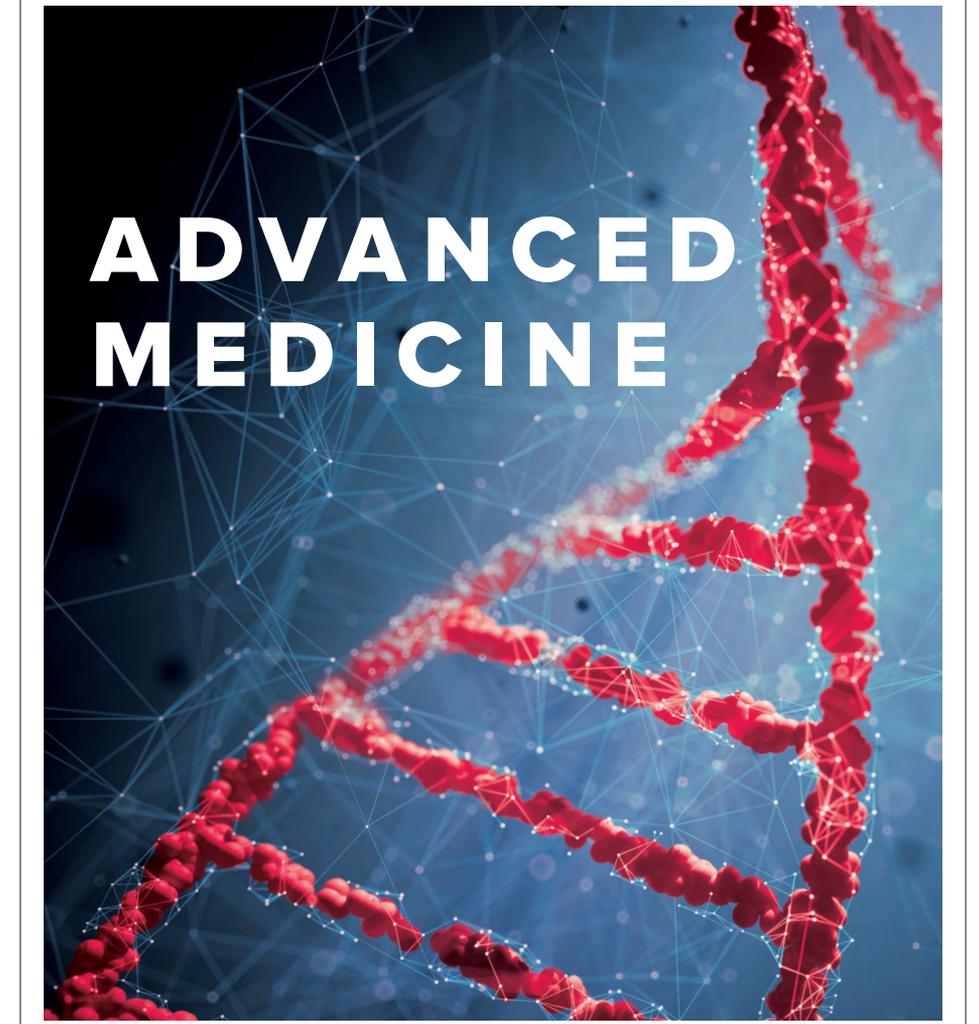
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