

La Voz de La Conexión



May 2022

La Voz, a Spanish term for "the voice," is the monthly news digest for La Conexión.

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La Conexión News

BOOK FIESTA WITH LA CONEXIÓN AND THE WC DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY!

After two years of cancellations due to the pandemic, our annual Book Fiesta for Children's Day/Book Day event with the Wood County District Public Library returned on April 30th. Children in the La Conexión Tutoring Program, "Our Children, The Future," read and performed *Vamos! Let's Eat*, a bilingual book by Raúl The Third. Every year for this event, in collaboration with Maria Simon, Director of the Children Section of the WC DPL, we choose a book highlighting Latinx culture. This year's book focuses on Mexican food trucks and "lucha libre" (wrestling). The family event brings awareness on diversity issues with a goal of building bridges among different cultures. This year we want to especially thank the BGSU students in Dr. Michaela Walsh's *Gender, Race & Culture in Community-Based Practice* class, and PhD candidate Tori Riesgo, for making the props; preparing the children for the performance; and, more than anything, for lovingly tutoring our children during the 2022 Spring Semester.



La Conexión children performing at Book Fiesta event at the WC DPL

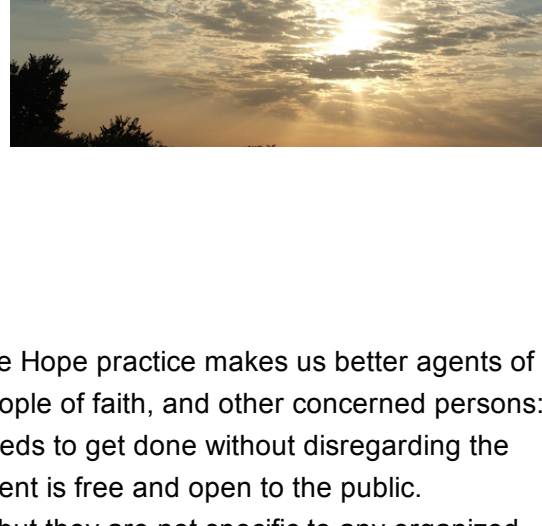
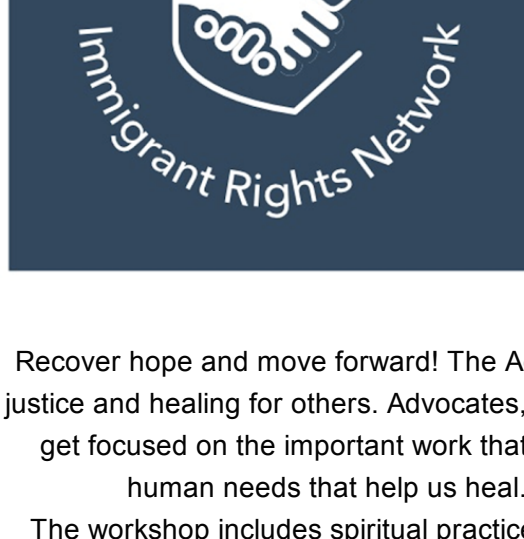
SATURDAY MAY 7TH AT ARLYN'S GOOD BEER!

Once again, Arlyn's Good Beer will be celebrating 5 de Mayo to support La Conexión on Saturday, May 7 from 1 to 11 pm. Arlyn's will donate \$1.00 (16%) from the sale of every pint of beer. What a fantastic and easy way to support our work while enjoying great local beer! La Conexión members will be there with our literature and t-shirts and enjoying a good time. Arlyn's will also have a food truck and live music. We will see you at Arlyn's on May 7!



La Conexión members with Eric Jones of Arlyn's at last year's event

YOU ARE INVITED: ACTIVE HOPE WORKSHOP OFFERED BY THE North West Ohio (NWOH) IMMIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK- MAY 11, 1-2:30 PM, AT THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NW OHIO



Recover hope and move forward! The Active Hope practice makes us better agents of justice and healing for others. Advocates, people of faith, and other concerned persons: get focused on the important work that needs to be done without disregarding the human needs that help us heal. Event is free and open to the public.

The workshop includes spiritual practices, but they are not specific to any organized religion and can be used by people of any or no faith. Led by Deacon Jennifer Vasquez, Board Member of the Multifaith Council of NW Ohio.

Location: Islamic Society of NW Ohio, 850 S McCord Rd, Holland, OH 43528

Organized by: the NWOH Immigrant Rights Network. Contact us for more information: nwoh.immigrantrightsnetwork@gmail.com

LA CONEXIÓN STANDS WITH IMMIGRANT ESSENTIAL WORKERS

5 million undocumented workers worked throughout the pandemic sustaining the economy and our communities in essential jobs, picking fruits and vegetables, in food processing plants and meatpacking, cleaning, and taking care of the sick and the elderly. What about recognizing the rights of these so-called "heroes"? The American public supports and understands this, the problem lies in the US Congress. These workers are still waiting for Congress to move on immigration reform proposals to recognize their humanity by guaranteeing basic rights. In the meantime, members of Congress and political candidates are scapegoating and using immigrants for political gain. What a shame. In spite of the depressing political context, quitting the fight is a luxury we can't afford. La Conexión renewed its work with the NWOH Immigrant Rights Network and with Essential Ohio to guarantee dignity and basic rights for immigrant workers. Please donate to our immigrant rights campaign and contact us to get involved and support these efforts!



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: ACCESS TO BENEFITS & BUILDING A GOOD CREDIT HISTORY

La Conexión continues its series of trainings on economic empowerment for staff and members. On April 30th a train-the-trainer session with Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) was held on access to benefits and immigration status. Non-citizens tend to face more challenges accessing benefits due to lack of information and fears of exclusion. In the case of the undocumented, even though they pay taxes and contribute to the social security fund, they are systematically excluded from most public benefits. La Conexión community organizers going through these training sessions are now in a better position not only to inform our members, but also to assist them in accessing and navigating the sometimes complicated systems.

On May 11th, we will continue the economic empowerment series with Nueva Esperanza Credit Union, focusing on how to build a good credit history and thus increase capacity to access credit, rent, and own property.



National and International News

"U.S. Supreme Court weighs 'remain in Mexico' immigration dispute," Reuters

The Supreme Court is currently hearing a case about Title 42, Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy that required asylum to stay in Mexico while they awaited their court date and thus facing dangerous circumstances such as kidnappings and sexual assault. The Biden administration ended the policy, but Texas and Missouri sued and a federal Texas court ordered the federal government to reinstate the policy. The policy is currently operating while litigation continues.

"Hispanic Catholic leaders meeting with Senators on immigration reform", Crux

On April 27, about 400 Hispanic Catholic leaders were on the Hill advocating for immigration reform as part of the "Raíces y Alas" (Roots and Wings) conference organized by the National Catholic Congress of Hispanic Ministry. The goal was to make a plea for the wellness of people from a faith-based perspective.

"African immigrant advocates point to 'double standard' as Ukrainians receive U.S. relief," NBC

This article discusses the double-standard facing different refugees, with Ukrainian refugees welcomed into European nations and Syrian, Afghanistan, Haitian, and refugees from other countries turned away from safe borders. From the article: "It's not people saying, 'The government shouldn't be assisting Ukrainian refugees,'" Sisay said. "It's saying the same level of care that you're giving to these folks, why is it that refugees, mainly Black refugees and refugees of color, don't get that same sort of care and attention when obviously they also are in need?"

Become Involved with La Conexión!

We are looking for additional volunteers who are interested in advocacy, educational programming, communications, and other tasks. Anyone interested in becoming involved, please contact: laconexionwc@gmail.com.

Giving to La Conexión

La Conexión, a 501(c)3 organization, can accept tax-deductible donations. You can donate by clicking the black and white "Donate" button on our [website](#). All proceeds benefit La Conexión.

Donations can also be made by mail at:
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