



NAAM Monthly Newsletter - December 2020

Our office at 330 Lynnway might be physically closed, but NAAM is very much still open. We have been working diligently from home to ensure that our refugee and immigrant clients continue to receive the services they need and deserve. Here are some things we have been up to this month:

Announcements:

- If you are looking for the information on local resources, please refer to your local cities ([Lynn](#), [Salem](#), [Everett](#), [Lowell](#)) or ask your teacher or case manager.
- For the parents of children attending Lynn Public Schools: we would like to invite you to see the presentation created by the Language Department about English Language Advisory Council. The goal of the Council is to bring together parents who are passionate about their children's learning and want to advise schools on how to improve their children's education and provide recommendations to schools in regards to programs and services provided to their children. Please see the [presentation](#) and consider joining the council.
- Our partner, [Root North Shore](#), is recruiting students for their next job training. Please see their announcement [here](#).
- We are doing our best to communicate with our students and clients on a regular basis to make sure they are doing well. Over the last month, we were able to help a few people schedule COVID-19 testing and follow up appointments, and assist with delivery of the medical supplies and medications to the sick ones. We are ready to respond to any urgent needs and requests from our clients.
- If you have any questions or concerns please email us at: info@naamass.org

NAAM in the Community:

- NAAM participates in the weekly calls of the Emergency Operations Center of the city of Lynn coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management and the Mayor of Lynn in response and recovery efforts of City departments and agencies as well as private organizations and volunteer groups.
- NAAM continues to be a part of Lynn Food Security Task Force organized by the city of Lynn's Mayor T. McGee to centralize the ongoing work throughout the city and identify existing gaps to better address food insecurity during the pandemic.

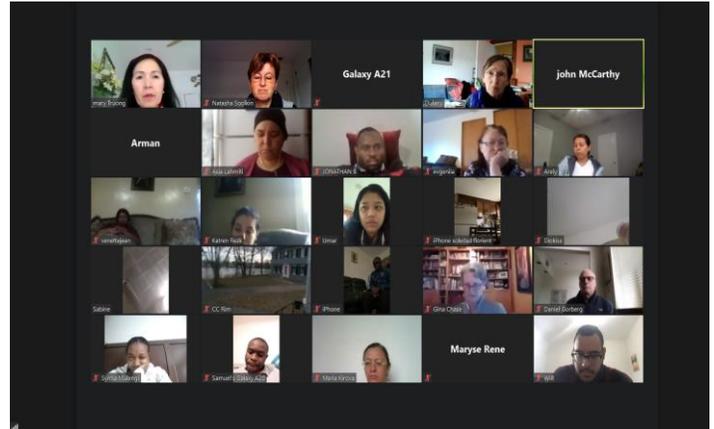


Holiday gifts from our friends at ORI



Refugee Town Hall

On December 1st in collaboration with [MA Office for Refugees and Immigrants](#), we invited our clients to the online Refugee Town Hall Meeting. In her opening remarks, Mary Truong, Ex. Director, MORI shared information about the organization and described projects and initiatives led by MORI over the last year. Representatives from [US Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) and [Department of Mental Health](#) offered their information and updates. Special focus of the meeting was on COVID-19 related topics. People were able to ask questions and share their concerns. Holiday gifts from ORI were offered to the families.



Refugee Town Hall

Food Deliveries:

We continue delivering food weekly bringing food boxes and bags with meat, fresh produce, dairy products and other food items to about 50+ families weekly. We proudly report that, thanks to our tireless volunteers and staff members, we are now very well organized, keeping all the helpers safe, delivering in neat packages to the doors of our clients and students on time. As always, our huge and very special thank you to our faithful leader Dulany Alexander, and hardworking Nadav Havusha and Mathew Alaniz. Our sincerest and deepest gratitude to all volunteers whose drive to help people never ceases.

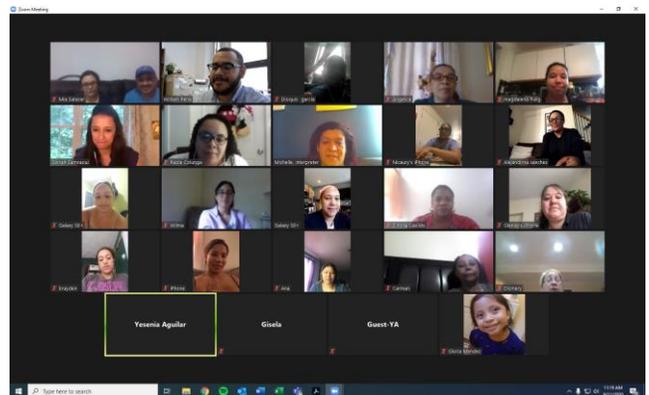


Food delivery set-up at Clifton Lutheran Church

If you would like to contribute your time to the project please go to the [following link](#) and choose any activities you would like to participate in

Financial Literacy:

25 NAAM clients were able to attend an online Financial Literacy Training. This FREE four-class workshop series provides knowledge on a variety of the following financial education topics: Budgeting, Basics of Banking, and Credit Score and Credit Report. Training was conducted in English. All graduates



Financial Literacy class

received a \$25 incentive check. We are now planning our next training to be

held in spring of 2021. If you are interested or you know of anyone who is interested to participate

please send us an email at info@naamass.org or let your teacher/case manager know.



Case Management & Employment:

- During the month of December, our employment specialists continued to be actively involved in helping both our already enrolled and our new clients in all phases of their job searches. Some clients who had lost shifts at their jobs at Logan Airport were called back to work during the period of increased travel over the holidays. Other clients found work as delivery drivers, in manufacturing and production facilities, and as home health aides. As we monitor the employment landscape, we see that there continues to be a demand for warehouse workers and delivery drivers of all kinds, and that some of the local production and manufacturing businesses are in a busy period of increased production and anticipated hiring.
- In addition to helping clients with job applications and interviews, we will continue to assist clients with managing their unemployment claims and making the weekly benefit requests. As always, please reach out to Will, Lynne, Natasha or Venette if you need help with an unemployment claim or submitting a job application, help getting an appointment with the RMV for any reason, would like to join one of NAC's classes, or need another type of assistance.



One of our newest American citizens

Citizenship:

Citizenship classes are covering Civics questions, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Two of our students passed their interviews in December and several others are waiting for interview dates. We've taken virtual tours of the Capitol Building, Supreme Court, and the White House.

CRES English Classes:

- Dan's class: "CRES English classes focused on the Winter Solstice and the holidays. We were on break from 12/22 until 1/4."
- Gina's class: "This month's lesson centered around winter vocabulary (see photos sent by students of the big snowstorm) with lessons on the science and traditional celebrations of the winter solstice, on how snow impacts our lives (getting around safely, clothes needed, staying warm), and extra precautions/restrictions due to the surge in the coronavirus. Grammar included using the present perfect tense of verbs. Dialo, who just arrived in the U.S. in August, got a job and started working fulltime in the middle of the month."



Snow storm photo from Wilma in Peabody

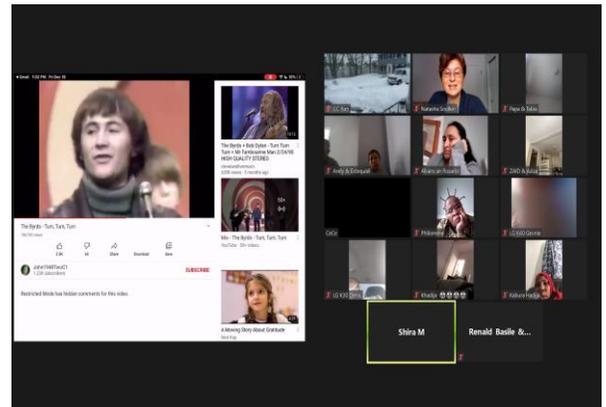


LPS English Classes:

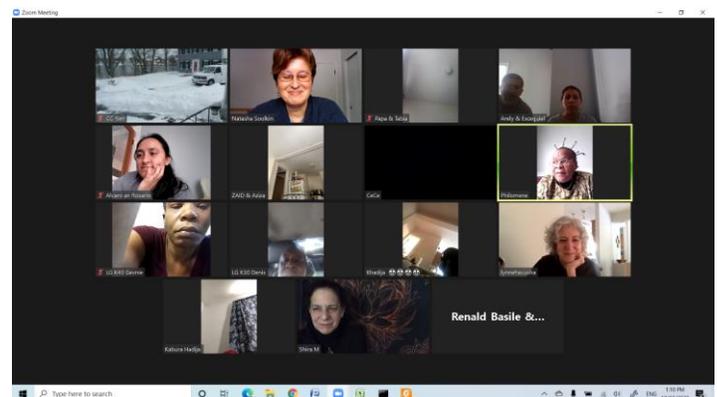
- **Dulany's class:** "This month was a really short one - only 4 classes and then a vacation. We continued working on the past tense (including asking past tense questions), and learning more about covid-related mental health concerns (which we learned about at the December 2 Immigrants' Town Hall)."
- **Bobby's class:** "We'll still meet twice a week in this upcoming year, on Wednesday afternoons at 6:30pm and Saturday mornings at 10am. The other ESL teachers and I are discussing options for a common core curricular text that would work well for both online and - when the time comes - in-person classes moving forward. It is still to be decided upon - hopefully the next teacher's meeting will be a good chance to discuss it further."
- **Suzie's class:** "We are making good progress and are finishing chapter 7 of Step Forward 2."

ELT-I:

- **Music Class:** this month, we studied the word "turn." The many meanings of this word were introduced against the backdrop of the turning of the seasons. Two songs we focused on were *Turning Toward The Morning* by Gordon Bok and *Turn! Turn! Turn!* by Pete Seeger.
- **Art Class:** students learned about the seasonal changes in New England. Many of the students were unfamiliar with winter, so we looked at famous paintings of New England in the winter. The students discussed the settings, landscape elements, time of day, quantities and colors in a number of paintings.
- **Wellness Class:** during the month of December, we have been focused on understanding the role of the immune system in managing our overall health during the winter season, especially during the current pandemic. Our reading material, discussions and videos have been focused on awareness and strategies concerning physical, mental and emotional health and the interconnected relationship between them.
- **Phone Technology:** students learned the components of electronic devices - keyboard, mouse, printer, inkjet, laser, photo printer, computer case etc.



Students listening to "Turn, Turn, Turn"



Students in music class



Updates from our Lowell Office:

From Amanda: “Not much new happening in Lowell, although referrals are up! In December for ESSP I had 4 referrals and 2 enrollments, and for CRES I had 3 new enrollments. Some of my clients are attending remote ESL classes through the Lynn office. I continue to see clients in person 3x week, and am able to keep things safe. For anyone who wants a job, I have them. But having Lowell schools completely remote has made employment very difficult for my mostly single-moms.”

Youth Mentoring Program:

We recently received youth clients from NAAM case workers and other organizations that are interested in mentoring. We hope to keep engaging these youth as well as continue program outreach to spread the word about our mentoring program. Additionally, we are currently gearing up to hold mentoring workshops that further educate our youth on important topics, including financial literacy as well as mental health and coping.

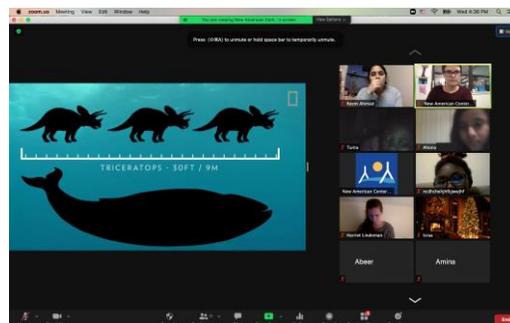
Youth Afterschool Program:

We continued to have our afterschool program on Zoom every week day from 3:00-5:00. Some December highlights included:

- Drawing winter landscapes, making snow globes, and making playdough
- We now have 7 students participating in 1:1 singing lessons
- Friday movies included *Polar Express*, *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- We celebrated several birthdays
- For Christmas and the new year, students received gifts and candy from NAC.



Ahona's drawing of a monkey



Learning about whales



Samya's winter landscape

Contact Us:

Phone – 781.593.0100 x 18

Email – info@naamass.org

Social Media – [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. We look forward to the day that we can once again greet you all in person at the New American Center.