

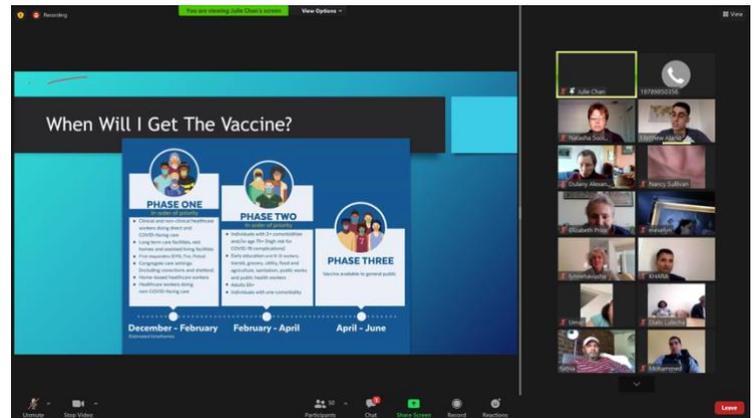


NAAM Monthly Newsletter – January 2021

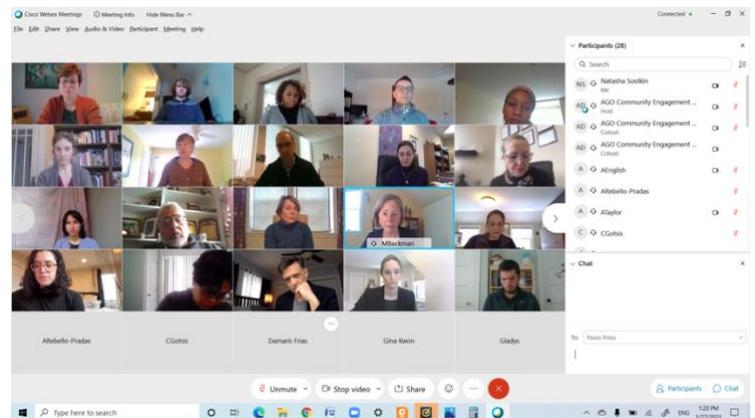
Our office at 330 Lynnway might be physically closed, but NAAM is very much still open. We have been working diligently from home to ensure that our refugee and immigrant clients continue to receive the services they need and deserve. Here are some things we have been up to this month:

Announcements:

- On January 13th we brought together 70 students/clients, NAAM staff members and volunteers for the zoom presentation on COVID-19 offered by Julie Chan, Nurse Practitioner from Lynn Community Health Center. Mrs. Chan shared with the audience the most updated information about COVID, the proven preventative measures, local resources, testing sites, recent policies and regulations in place to prevent the spread of the disease, and essential news about vaccinations. During this month, thanks to the grant from the Health Resources in Action, we were able to provide our clients with PPE supplies (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and touchless thermometers).
- On January 27th NAAM Executive Director participated in the MA Attorney General Office New Americans Advisory Council. The following topics were discussed at the meeting: Health Equity Report, COVID-19 vaccinations, and immigration updates with the new federal administration
- We continue providing our clients and students with our weekly food deliveries, connecting with people on a regular basis to check on their well beings and needs, preparing and submitting applications on behalf of our clients for various benefits such as Masshealth, SNAP, TAFDC, Fuel Assistance, immigration benefits (Travel Documents, Employment Authorizations Documents, Green Cards, Family Reunifications applications), participating in the Lynn Food Security Taskforce, Lynn Emergency Operations Taskforce, Department of Transitional Assistance Advisory Board, Lynn Community Health Board of Directors, it Strategic Committee and Patients, Families and Community Committee.



COVID-19 presentation



AGO New Americans Advisory Council



Case Management & Employment:

- During the month of January, 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 previous jobs have been called back to work over the winter or re-employed in similar positions. Other clients have found work as delivery drivers, in manufacturing and production facilities and as home health aides. As we monitor the constantly evolving employment landscape, we see that there continues to be a demand for warehouse workers and delivery drivers of all kinds, and for employees looking for jobs in the medical assembly industry.
- 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.

Citizenship:

Classes have taken virtual tours of the White House, Senate, and Supreme Court. Two students are preparing for their interviews this month. Michelle Guzman will be presenting her Community Engagement talk next week.

They fought for the right
to vote.

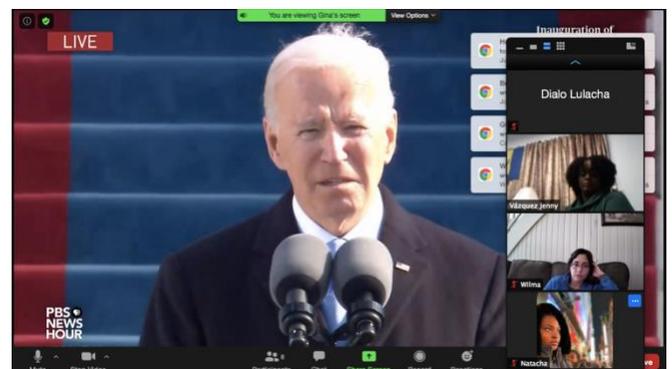


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CRES English Classes:

- Dan's class: "We're working on the past tense of irregular verbs. Talking about weekend activities, all things done in the past. Also keeping up with current events on Voice of America. We discussed the Inauguration and Ground Hog's Day."
- Khara's class: "Students are learning English through VOA lessons. In January I started reviewing the lessons from the beginning. They learn to introduce each other, practice pronunciation, practice speaking after watching video. We talked about the weather and snow storm. Students attended the meeting about COVID vaccine and got valuable information about it."
- Gina's class: "Whether talking about finances, goals we 'might' achieve in the new year or the historic events that occurred, the theme for our class in January is captured in this quote from one student, 'Hope can make you happy.' After discussing monthly expenses, studying vocabulary on pay stubs and practicing the modal verb of possibility 'might,' the students answered and debated conversation questions, such as "If you had no money at all, do you think you could be happy?" which elicited the quote. This quote was equally resonant as we watched the inauguration of President Biden and the first woman vice-president Harris together and heard the words of the youth poet laureate, Amanda Gorman, as she ended her poem with: 'There is always light. If we are brave enough to see it. If we are brave enough to be it.'"

Learning about the Civil Rights' Movement



Watching President Biden's inauguration in Gina's class



LPS English Classes:

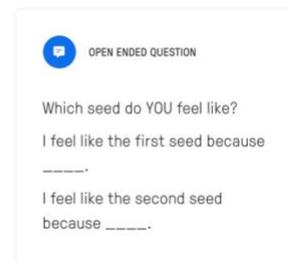
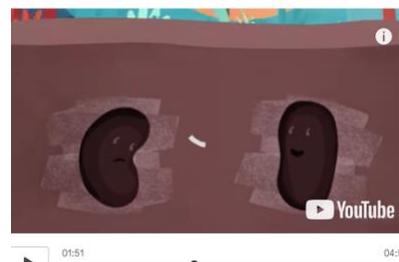
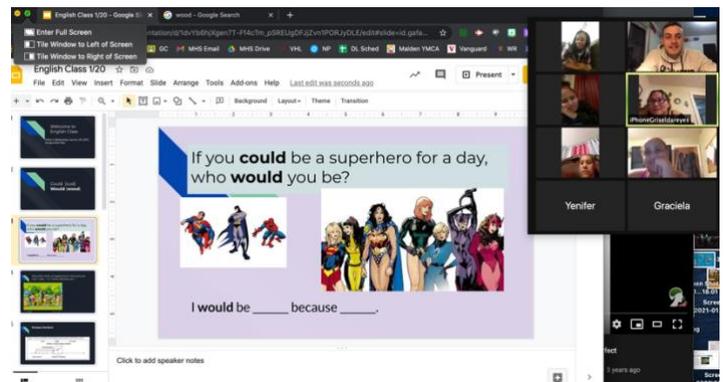
- Dulany's class:

- We learned more about the pandemic and especially its impact on the mental health to look for in our children. Of course that led us to review the lexicon of emotions, without which it would be hard to talk about mental health!
- We watched video bits from the inauguration. Since most of the students in the class are new citizens, the names and faces and places were familiar. We're always into asking each other questions and answering them, so it was fun talking about pictures using some "model dialogs"
- We started a new unit in a Step Forward textbook. The topic is newspapers and the passive voice. (*A store was robbed. Joe Biden was elected.*) It's interesting, but the passive voice is challenging. Now we can't remember what to do with our verbs!"



Learning about Martin Luther King Jr.

- Bobby's class: "Classes this month have been going well so far. We have mainly been going over the present and past perfect. I have used Edpuzzle much more lately and have found it to be a really helpful tool. The website allows me to insert multiple choice and short-answer questions to the right side of uploaded videos (usually from Youtube). I took a few screenshots so you can get a better sense. I have also used Newsela for some readings at the appropriate lexile level. I am planning on using either a Ventures/Future textbook starting next week."



Examples of open-ended questions from Bobby's classes

- Suzie's class: "My LPS students are making great progress. We have finished Chapter 7 and are into Chapter 8. Their homework sentences are getting more complex and their conversation skills are really improving."

ELT-I:

- Art Class: "In Art Class we have been learning about the artist, John James Audubon. We've been reading books about his life and how he was born in Haiti, grew up in France and moved to the United States as a young man. We also learned that his book *Birds of America* was the first book to feature all of the bird species of North America. We've been looking at some of his beautiful drawings and sharing our observations. We also learned that The National Audubon Society was established in his honor and that there are many Audubon Sanctuaries in Massachusetts."



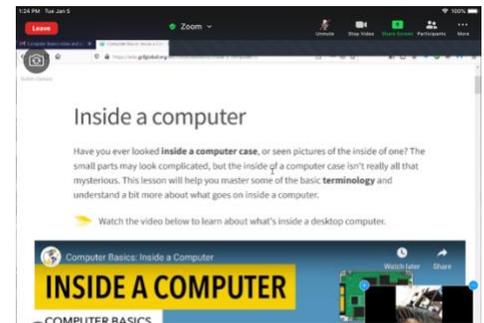
- **Phone Technology:** Students reviewed computer terminology, learned about differences between laptop and desktop computers, and explored the City of Lynn website
- **Music Class:** “In Music class we always take turns reading aloud about the historical and narrative context behind the songs we explore. We learn about the life and times of the musicians who wrote and first performed the songs. We then read the lyrics of the song and watch videos of the songs being performed by the original artists. Our featured Song and Artist has been *The Times They are a-Changin’*” by Bob Dylan. We’ve been looking at the lyrics of this song as having first been a poem with rhyming words. This has given us the opportunity to look at how different words can have a similar meaning and that we can choose certain words to help the poem/song flow better.”
- **Wellness Class:** In Wellness class we are always reminded that “wellness” means “well-being” or “being well” and that wellness has many aspects such as physical, social, mental, emotional, spiritual and financial. When we check in on all of these things regularly, we can be in better health and balance in our lives. During the month of January, we have been focused on the importance of regular exercise and strategies for exercising at home.

Updates from our Lowell Office:

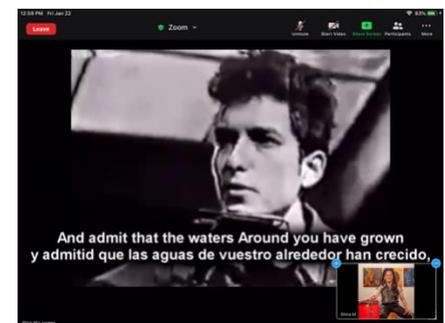
In Lowell we have moved to a new location which provides private offices for the program manager and the case worker, as well as classroom space for ESOL and Computer Skills once it is safe to start in-person classes again. We remain in a convenient downtown location close to other social service agencies. We have also applied for a CDBG grant from the City of Lowell and the hearing is next week. Enrollments are up, with 3 new clients this month.

Youth Mentoring Program:

Refugee Youth Mentoring Program: This month we have been able to engage more youth in mentoring by providing more flexibility to participation to ensure that our youth are receiving the services that they need and deserve. We also have been fortunate enough to partner with a financial consulting group to lead financial literacy workshops for our mentees and mentors in February.



Learning about computer parts in Phone Technology class



Different versions of 'The Times They are a-Changing' in music class



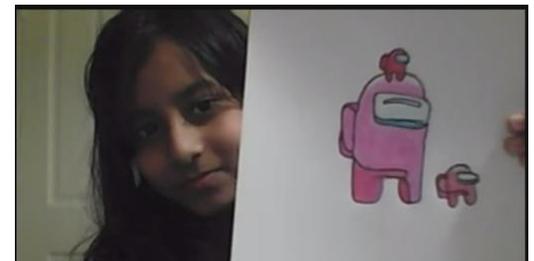
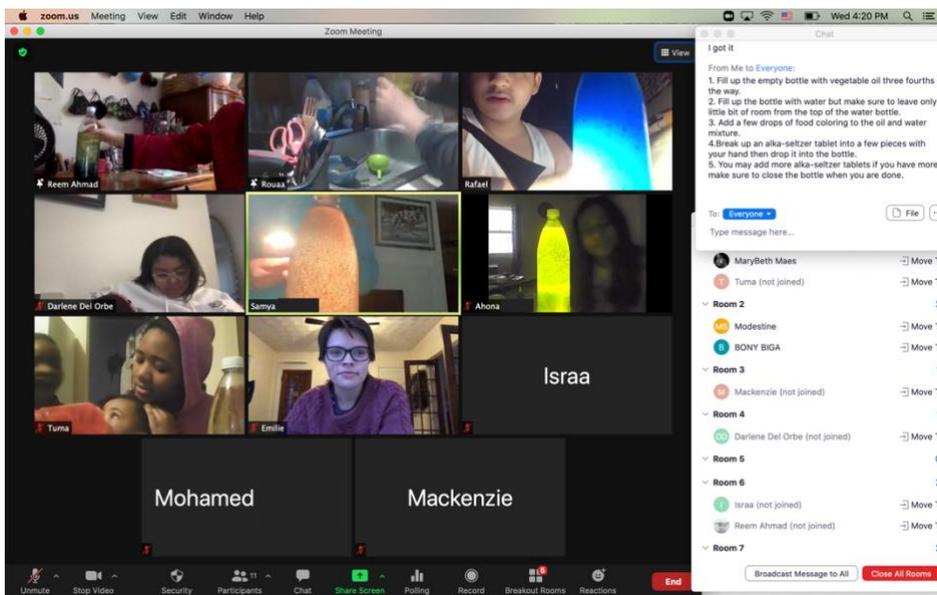
Financial Literacy workshop for teens



Youth Afterschool Program:

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

- In art class we drew ourselves as *Among Us* characters, learned how to draw cats, and expressed our emotions using colors.
- We discussed our hopes and goals for 2021.
- In science class, students learned how to make butter, explored buoyancy with eggs and salt, and made lava lamps.
- We continue to watch movies on Friday, such as *We Can Be Heroes*, *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl*, *Over the Moon*, and *Finding 'Ohana*.



Making lava lamps in science class

January masterpieces by NAC artists!

Contact Us:

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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.