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AMERICAN HERITAGE AWARDS

Friday, June 15, 2012 Nashville, TN



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Nachito Herrera, Pianist
(Cuba)

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Alexander Tymouch
5th Grade Creative Writing Contest Winner

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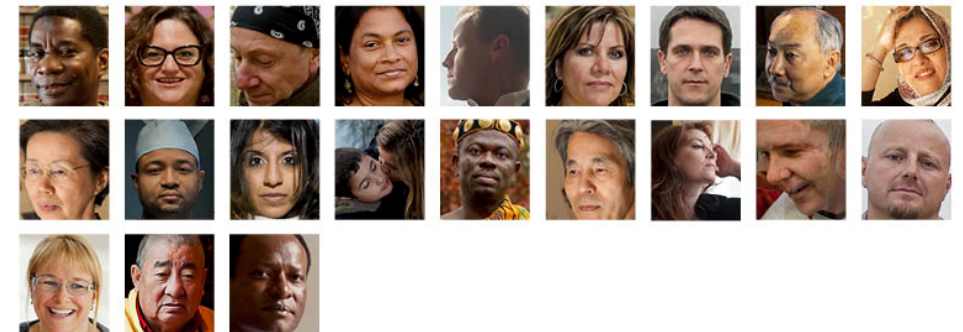
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2012 Nautilus Book Award - Silver Medal

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Green Card Stories

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On behalf of our employees
bringing their talent and
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in creating a stronger U.S.
immigration system.

With us, you are helping
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We extend our heartfelt
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honorees.

- Tommy Emmanuel
- Nachito Herrera
- Yura Lee
- Alexander Tymouch

Microsoft applauds
the inspiring work and
talent of the American
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honorees.

Table of Contents

Program5

Benefit Sponsors.....6

About the American Immigration Council8

Council Leadership9

5th Grade Creative Writing Contest Winner.....11

Honoree Biographies.....12

Greetings.....16



**Congratulations to
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June 15, 2012

Opening Reception
Welcoming Remarks
Awards Presentation with Performances
Closing Remarks
Dancing

Honoring



Nachito Herrera
Pianist, Cuba



Yura Lee
*Violist & Violinist,
South Korea*



Tommy Emmanuel
Guitarist, Australia



Alexander Tymouch
*Creative Writing Winner,
Chicago, IL*

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Nearly 25 years ago, a group of dedicated AILA leaders came together to create a non-profit entity that would enhance the power and reach of the immigration bar. They envisioned a strong non-profit partner that would work on two tracks: challenging the misapplication or misinterpretation of immigration laws and educating the public about the enduring contributions of immigrants.

The American Immigration Council has grown from a small charitable foundation into a powerful voice for sensible and humane immigration policies that are both consistent with constitutional law and reflective of our proud history as a nation of immigrants.

The Council continues to work to expand AILA's reach by building partnerships with organizations outside the immigration bar so that the programmatic work of the Council can achieve maximum impact.

The Community Education Center strives to promote a better understanding of immigrants and immigration by providing educational resources that inspire thoughtful dialogue, creative teaching, and critical thinking. Dedicated to the American values of fairness, social justice, and respect for all people, the Center is committed to making immigration an “everybody issue.” The Center also highlights the positive contributions immigrants have made and continue to make to American society through its programmatic work.

The International Exchange Center fosters the exchange of culture, ideas, and knowledge through sponsorship of the J-1 visa in the trainee and intern categories and the organization of periodic study tours to various cities around the world. The purpose of the Center is to create educational resources and opportunities that recognize our immigrant heritage. Dedicated to respecting, valuing, and celebrating cultural differences, the International Exchange Center programs create a synergy of the best ideas from many cultures for the benefit of all.

The Immigration Policy Center is the research and policy arm of the American Immigration Council. The Center's mission is to shape a rational conversation on immigration and immigrant integration. Through its research and analysis, IPC provides policymakers, the media, and the general public with accurate information about the role of immigrants and immigration policy in U.S. society. Their reports and materials are widely disseminated and relied upon by press and policymakers.

The Legal Action Center advocates for fundamental fairness in U.S. immigration law. To this end, the Center engages in impact litigation and appears as amicus curiae (friend of the court) before administrative tribunals and federal courts in significant immigration cases on targeted legal issues. We also provide resources to lawyers litigating immigration cases and serve as a point of contact for lawyers conducting or contemplating immigration litigation. They also work with other immigrants' rights organizations and immigration attorneys across the United States to promote the just and fair administration of our immigration laws.

The American Immigration Council

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Creative Writing Contest Winner



ALEXANDER TYMOUCH
Saint Nicholas Cathedral School
Chicago, IL

“America, the Magical Land”

*There is a magical place in this world,
Where people come to look for
freedom and happiness.
They sail for weeks through the swaying ocean,
When they finally arrive at the mesmerizing new land,
They try to keep their own ways at first.
They celebrate the same holidays,
Wear the same clothes,
And eat the same food.
They do everything the same as before,
But eventually...
They start to learn from one another
And exchange their cultures.
It's like an experienced cook came
and learned to dance,
While a graceful dancer came and learned to sew.
A talented tailor came and learned to bake,*

*While a baker came and learned to farm.
They thought they were doing it for their own benefit,
But in fact they were making history.
These people learned different cultures
And shared their own cultures too.
And while they were as different as they could be,
They became friends more quickly
By teaching one another
And learning from one another.
And just like that, a new country was born.
But what is truly unbelievable,
Is the fact that this was all created
By ordinary families of immigrants
In that same beautiful, magical place,
In that amazing year round wonderland,
That same four seasoned country,
America.*

Biography



Nachito Herrera

"Hotter than the burning tip of a contraband Cuban cigar. . . stronger than a straight shot of Havana rum. . . and tastier than a big platter of black beans, rice, sweet plantains and ropa vieja."

Ignacio "Nachito" Herrera stunned Cuban audiences at the age of twelve when he performed "Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2" with the Havana Symphony Orchestra. Herrera later studied with Cuban masters Chucho Valdez and Frank Fernandez. In 1990, he received his Masters Degree in Music from Superior Institute of Art in Havana, Cuba. Next Nachito began performing, directing, and touring with state-sponsored orchestras and the renowned Tropicana Orchestra. In 1997, he joined Cubanismo! and toured Europe, the United States, and the Far East with them. As pianist, arranger, and producer, Nachito has over 40 recordings to his credit.

Over the past decade, Nachito Herrera has burrowed his way into the hearts of Twin Cities' jazz fans with his monster technique, bottomless energy, and infectious enthusiasm for his homeland and its eclectic rhythms. In addition, Nachito finds time to hold down a teaching position at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis while also giving workshops throughout the Midwest.

Since coming to the United States, Nachito has continued to play at Jazz Festivals around the world. In 2010 he toured nationally to sold-out audiences with Juan de Marcos and the Afro-Cuban All Stars. This fall he will be the featured pianist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba, which will tour 17 U.S. cities in 10 states. This is the first tour by the Cuban Symphony Orchestra in the United States since its founding in 1960.

Nachito's wife and two children joined him in Minnesota in 2003. From there it was on to green cards and eventually citizenship in 2011, for which Nachito performed at his own swearing in ceremony.

Biography



Yura Lee

"If I needed an interlocutor at the gates to heaven, I would call upon Yura Lee."

Violinist/violist Yura Lee was born in South Korea in 1985. She started playing the violin as a student in Seoul, Korea, when she was 4 years old. At the age of 9—from 1994 to 2001—she continued her studies at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. During the summers of 1995 through 2005 she was on a full scholarship to the Aspen Music School. From 2001 to 2005 she studied at the Indiana University and at the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Yura Lee won her first violin competition at the age of five in Seoul, Korea. In 1997, she was presented with the "Debut Artist of the Year" award by National Public Radio. In 2006, Lee won first prize in the International Leopold Mozart Competition, where she was also awarded the Mozart Prize and the Audience Prize. Also in 2006, she was a laureate at the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and won second prize in the Paganini Competition in Italy. In 2007, she was awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Lee has appeared with many major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony, the Saint Louis Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the Tokyo Philharmonic, among others.

Ms. Lee was awarded two Artist Diplomas, by the Indiana University in Bloomington and the New England Conservatory in Boston. Ms. Lee teaches at the Longy School of Music at Bard College, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ms. Lee is currently in the process of applying for permanent residence.

Biography



Tommy Emmanuel

“For those who aren’t familiar with Emmanuel, he is one of the world’s most astounding guitarists to ever perform on a stage. In live performance, he is a marvel of speed, inventiveness and showmanship.”

Two-time Grammy nominee Tommy Emmanuel has a professional career that spans five decades. A household name in his native Australia, Tommy has garnered hundreds of thousands of loyal fans worldwide. Tommy’s unique style—he calls it “finger style”—is akin to playing guitar like a piano, using all ten fingers. Rather than using a whole band for melody, rhythm, bass, and drum parts, Tommy plays all that—and more—on one guitar.

Emmanuel’s unusual talent and life are common lore in Australia. Born into a musical family, Tommy and his older brother Phil were considered child prodigies. Tommy got his first guitar at age 4 and was taught by his mother. He learned by ear, with no formal instruction, and has never read music. By the age of 6, he was already a professional musician in the family band. “I’ve spent all my life from the age of four playing music and entertaining people. I never wanted to do anything else.” By age 10, Emmanuel had played his way across Australia.

In 1980, Emmanuel began visiting the United States, where he met his childhood idol Chet Atkins, who subsequently became his mentor. He was a frequent visitor to the U.S. for recording and occasional performances, but in 2000 he obtained an O-1 visa and began touring on a regular basis. In 2004, he moved to the United States and maintained his O-1 visa while applying for permanent residence. He calls Tennessee home and loves the music, the weather, and its livability. Racking up more frequent flyer miles than some professional pilots, he tours the world relentlessly and is a proud Permanent Resident of the United States—a fact he pronounces at many of his shows.



The American Immigration Council would like to welcome our incoming Board of Trustee members:

Dr. Rashid Chotani

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And thank our outgoing Board members for their years of exceptional guidance, leadership and service:

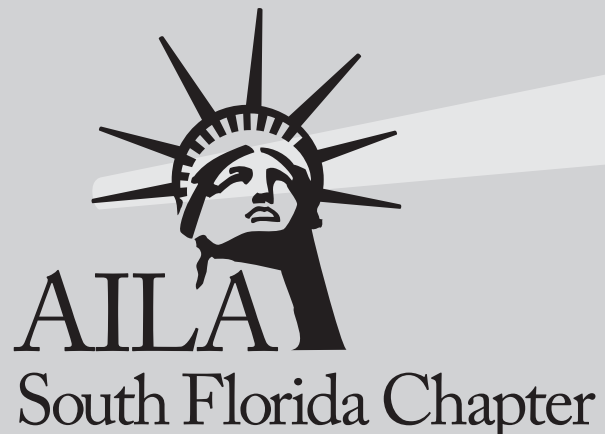
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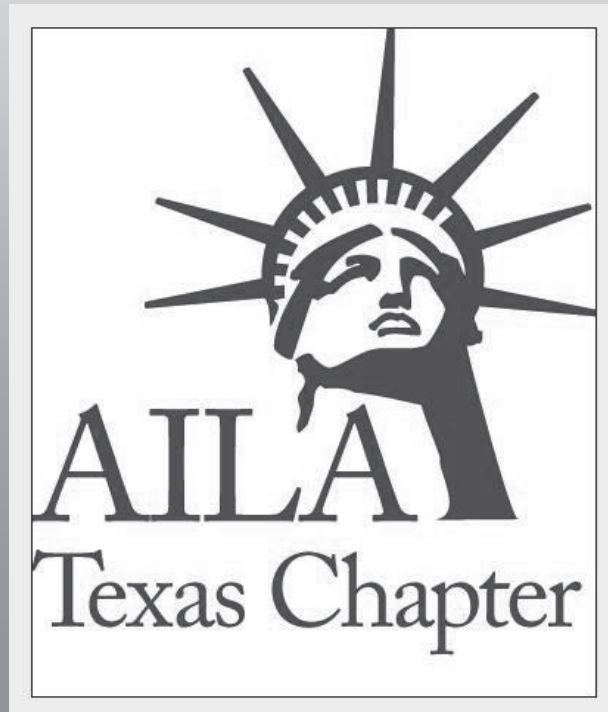
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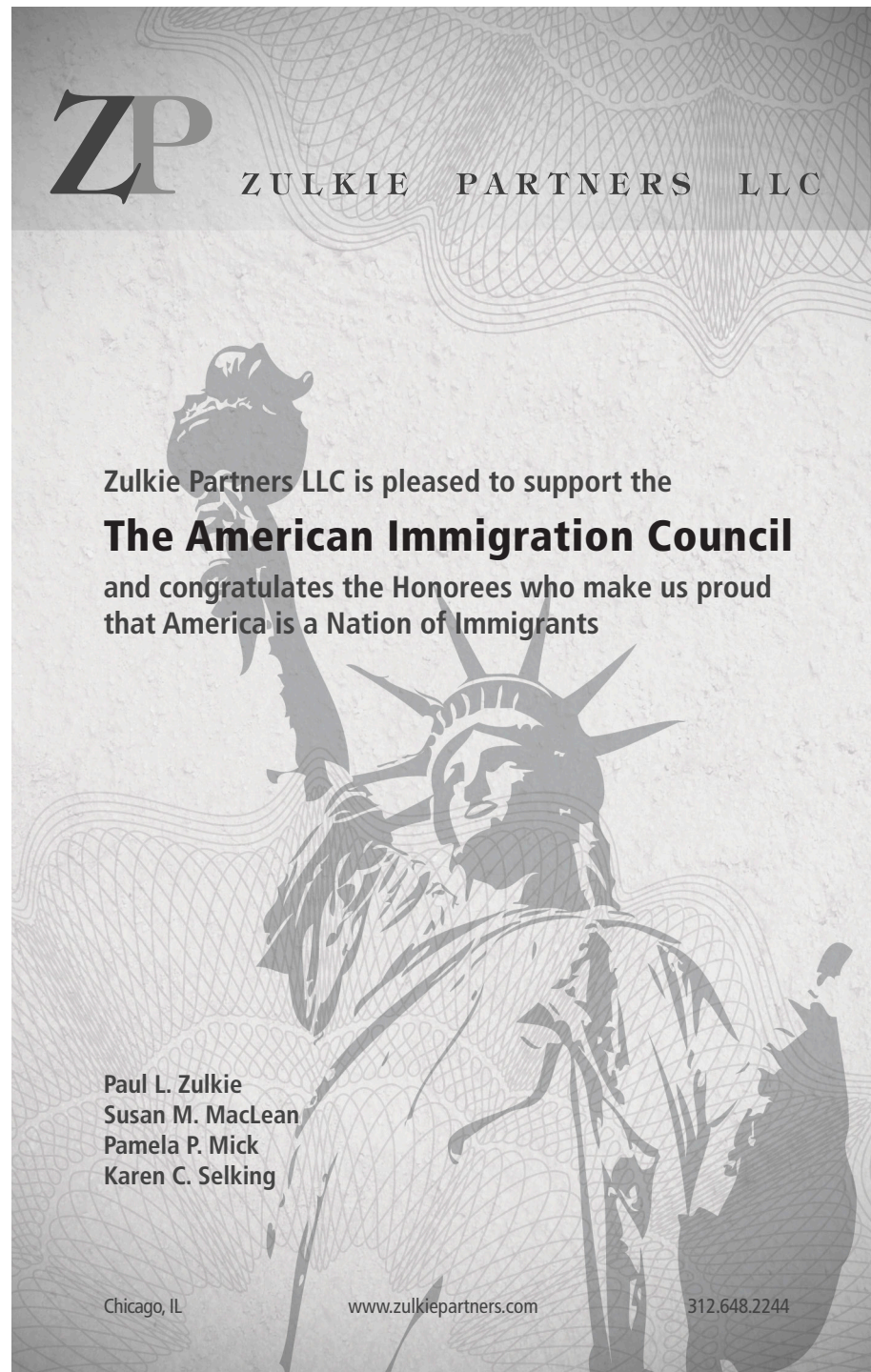
Kirsten Schlenger

**AILA Southern Florida Chapter
Joins the American Immigration
Council in Saluting Tonight's
Honorees and the Many
Contributions of Immigrants.**



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is pleased to support the
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and congratulates tonight's honorees





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AILA Chicago Chapter would like to congratulate:

The American Immigration Council on 25 Years

The 2012 American Heritage Award Honorees

and

Alexander Tymouch

15th Annual "Celebrate America"

Creative Writing Contest Winner from Chicago!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES
FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING
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A global association of leading immigration lawyers
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a book that in words and photos tells the true life stories of
immigrants and their many contributions to America

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AND THE WORK IT DOES FOR OUR
IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

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Happy 25th anniversary to the American Immigration Council
and congratulations to this year's honorees:

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of the American Immigration Council*



*Congratulations to the 2012 Award Recipients
and to the American Immigration Council
for their contributions to the field of
Immigration Law*

New York embraces the efforts of
the Council in creating a fair and
just immigration system.



**Western Union salutes tonight's
Honorees and their achievements!**



AILA
Missouri/Kansas
Chapter Salutes
Tonight's Honorees



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*The AILA New Jersey Chapter
is proud to support the important
work and contributions of the
American Immigration Council,
and congratulates this year's
deserving honorees.*

The law firm of Barst Mukamal & Kleiner LLP congratulates AIC for all its contributions in support of reasonable immigration policy and immigrants.



www.bmklip.com

Myers Thompson

Myers Thompson is proud to support the American Immigration Council and congratulates this year's honorees on their extraordinary musical contributions to America and to the world!

Sam Myers and Elizabeth Thompson

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and Salutes Tonight's Honorees
and Their Achievements



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and congratulate this year's honorees
on their extraordinary contributions

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*is proud to support the
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and
salutes this year's honorees and their
achievements.*

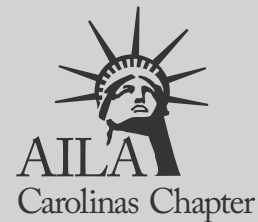


AILA
Santa Clara Valley Chapter



Miley & Brown, P.C. in Dallas, Texas congratulates the Council on its exceptional work throughout the last 25 years. Thank you for your strong clear voice on behalf of persons from all over the world.

AILA Carolinas Chapter
Congratulates
Tonight's Honorees.
Your Stories Are an
Inspiration to All Immigrants.



Congratulations Grand Prize Winner
Alexander Tymouch of Chicago, Illinois!

Second Place winners: Nikita Ranjit Nair of Austin, Texas and
Emma Snavelly of Seattle, Washington

Honorable mentions: Aedra Li of San Francisco, California
and Samantha Nelson of St. Louis, Missouri

Thank you to all chapter coordinators and judges for helping to make the
15th Annual "Celebrate America" Creative Writing Contest a success.

Chapter Coordinators:

Audrey Allen, Bob Beer, Brenda Boudreaux, Sarah Brenes, Maggie Castillo, Aygal Charles, Margo Chernysheva, Larissa Draver, Greg Eck, Julie Ferguson, Alison Foley, Lalita Haran, Maile Hirota, Geoff Lacy, James Lane, Tzu-Kai Lo, Megan Long, Silvia Martinez, Jeremy McKinney, Kelsey O'Keefe, Linda Schweitzer, Monica Smith, Ada Lil Torres, Jinhee Wilde, and Joel Wisniewski

Second Round Judges:

Ann Chandler, Rob Cohen, Silvia Graves, Karen Grisez, Kathy Moccio, and Drew Wilson

Celebrity Judges:

Peter Coan, Lawrence Downes, Jan and Marica Vilcek and Gerda Weissman Klein



REBOOTING THE AMERICAN DREAM

The Immigration Policy Center is pleased to announce the creation of a research and policy fellowship that will explore how immigrants can contribute to "Rebooting the American Dream."

The fellow will explore how immigrants help shape the economic future of our country through entrepreneurship, innovation, and community enrichment.

We thank Microsoft and the AILA Community for helping us to advance the conversation around reforms that will spur the U.S. economy and rebuild communities.

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AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL

AIC's Legal Action Center extends its deepest thanks to the law firms, nonprofit organizations and clinics that have partnered with us on litigation and other projects this year

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American Immigration Lawyers Association	National Immigration Law Center
Cardozo School of Law Immigration Justice Clinic	National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
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Immigrant Defense Project	Van Der Hout, Brigagliano & Nightingale, LLP
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The Council Invites 14-25 Year Olds to Enter the 2012 "Change in Motion" Multimedia Contest

The American Immigration Council is pleased to announce a call for submissions to the 2012 "Change in Motion" Multimedia Contest.

The competition challenges today's young adults to explore the role that immigration plays in their lives and communities through video and other multimedia projects.

Projects should focus on celebrating America as a nation of immigrants as well as the immigration's impact on our everyday lives.

There are first (\$1,000), second (\$500) and third place (\$250) prizes.

The deadline is 11:59 EST, October 31, 2012.

For more information on eligibility requirements, application procedures and contest guidelines visit CommunityEducationCenter.org.

