

Golden Door Award Gala

A gala celebration of the refugee and immigrant community and their contributions to New England, in honor of

Noubar Afeyan,
founder of Flagship Pioneering

Thursday, November 30, 2017
6:00 - 9:00PM

Intercontinental Hotel
Atlantic Avenue in Boston, MA

THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT IINE:

1. Sponsor a house party in your home or a “Lunch and Learn” at your company. Email jgrady-savard@iine.org to schedule.
2. Support the Institute with a gift by visiting iine.org/donate.
3. Sponsor future Suitcase Stories LIVE! performances or other events. For more information, contact events@iine.org.



A graphic of a suitcase filled with words related to migration and refugee experiences. The words include: REFUGEE, INTEGRATION, SUITCASE STORIES, LIVE!, IMMIGRANT, OPPORTUNITY, FREEDOM, HOPE, PRIORITY, RESSETLE, HOW, DESPAIR, RELIEF, SAFETY, DISPLACE, BELONGING, REMOVAL, and BENEFIT.

Hosted by Resettle Together Community

SUPPORT REFUGEES IN MANCHESTER

September 21st, 7:00pm | The Palace Theatre
Series info: iine.org/suitcasestories

In Partnership with:

MASS MOUTH
ON GARDEN STREET

 International
Institute of
New England

About Suitcase Stories

Suitcase Stories is a live performance series that features foreign-and U.S.-born residents sharing refugee and immigrant stories throughout Greater Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Produced in partnership with:



**International
Institute of
New England**

The mission of the International Institute of New England (IINE) is to invest in the future of our cities and towns by preparing new Americans for participation in the social, economic, and political richness of American

life through active citizenship. Each year IINE serves 1,700 refugees and immigrants across our three sites in Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts and Manchester, New Hampshire. For more information visit iine.org.



The mission of Massmouth is to promote the timeless art of storytelling in Massachusetts. Founded in 2009, Massmouth hosts popular monthly slams and special events in non-traditional venues across Greater Boston including: Club Passim in Harvard Square, Trident Booksellers on Newbury Street, the Riot Theater in Jamaica Plain, and WGBH Studios in Brookline. For more information visit massmouth.org.

As a proud partner of Granite United Way, we share the common goal of improving lives and creating lasting change in our community.



SUITCASE STORIES SERIES SPONSORS



MANCHESTER SHOW SPONSORS



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WILLIAM J. GILLET**



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MANCHESTER SUITCASE STORIES COMMITTEE

Christine Brennan
Dr. Paula Mahon
Andrea McMillan
Calley Milne
Allison Nussbaum
Marco Protano
Heidi Traeger

SPECIAL THANKS

Alliances Storytelling
Bill Gillett
New Hampshire Public Radio
New Hampshire Storytelling
Northeast Storytelling (NEST)
The Palace Theater
Yankee Publishing

International Institute at a Glance

The Institute builds vibrant, inclusive communities in New England and welcomes 1,700 new Americans each year to Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Our services include resettlement, case management, adult education, job training and placement, and pathways to citizenship.

2016 Key Accomplishments

- The Institute resettled 623 refugees in Eastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, representing 25% of all refugees resettled in those two states.
- Refugees served by the Institute fled violence and persecution in 20 countries, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma (Myanmar), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria.
- The Institute served almost 500 people in its English language and English for Employment programs.
- The Institute provided employment counseling services to 686 refugee and immigrant clients across all three sites, 71% of whom received a job placement within six months of starting the program.
- IINE staff placed new Americans at more than 146 companies across Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The Institute's job preparation and placement services were critical to the economic growth of a region with low unemployment and significant labor shortages.

Suitcase Stories LIVE! Manchester

Welcome

Jeff Thielman, *President and CEO, IINE*
Virginia Prescott, *Host of Word of Mouth, NHPR*

Stories: Chapter 1

Ewa Chrusciel
Ed Fayle
Tilak Niroula
Kayla Rossmeissl

Intermission

Stories: Chapter 2

Theresa Okokon
Abdullah Kashmoola
Emma Tobin
Deo Mwano

Virginia Prescott

Virginia Prescott is the Gracie Award-winning host of NHPR's *Word of Mouth* radio program, the *Writers on a New England Stage* series, *Civics 101* and *10-Minute Writers Workshop* podcasts. *Word of Mouth* is a daily break from breaking news and home to new ideas and under-reported stories from viral and pop culture. Prior to joining NHPR, she was editor, producer and director for NPR's *On Point* and *Here & Now* programs, and directed interactive media for WNYC in New York. Throughout her radio career, she's helped build independent radio stations throughout the developing world and trained journalists in post-conflict zones from Sierra Leone to the Balkans. Her commitment to the power of sound and story-telling led her to create audio installations in Houston, Watertown, Massachusetts, and at MIT. She was awarded a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University and was a member of the Peabody Award-winning production team for *Jazz from Lincoln Center with Ed Bradley*. She is the recipient of a Gracie Award for Outstanding Host and loves working in radio, but regrets that so many good outfits go unnoticed.

Meet the Storytellers

Ewa Chrusciel

Ewa Chrusciel is a poet, teacher, and translator. She has three books of poems in English: *Of Annunciations* (Omnidawn 2017), *Contraband of Hoopoe* (Omnidawn 2014), *Strata* (Emergency Press 2009), as well as three books in Polish: *Tobolek*, *Sopiłki*, *Furkot*. Her newest book "Of Annunciations" is a series of prayers, laments, and lullabies addressing our current migration crises. Annunciation becomes a symbol of the "yes" when confronted with exiles, and strangers. What does it mean to say "yes" to a stranger? Ewa also translated selected books by Jack London, Joseph Conrad, I.B. Singer, as well as selected poems by Jorie Graham, Kazim Ali, Lyn Hejinian, Cole Swensen, and other American poets into Polish. She is an Associate Professor of Humanities at Colby-Sawyer College.

Ed Fayle

Storyteller Ed Fayle delights audiences with original tales, layering warmth and mirth during performances accompanied by guitar and harmonica. An English teacher in Mount Washington Valley, Ed earned his Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Emerson College. He was selected to the New Hampshire State Library Artist Roster, performing summer reading programs in libraries statewide. His dramatic rendition of Chris Van Allsburg's award-winning picture book, *The Polar Express*, has long been recognized as a holiday treasure. He is also a feature teller at the Corner House Inn storytelling events. Ed lives with his wife and two children on a mountainside farm in Tamworth, New Hampshire.

Tilak Niroula

Born in Bhutan, Tilak Niroula lived in exile in Nepal for two decades before resettling to Manchester, New Hampshire with the International Institute of New England's support in 2013. Upon arrival, Tilak secured a job as the Media and Communication Manager with the Bhutanese Community of New Hampshire (BCNH), a vibrant community based non-profit organization. He also founded 'Hamro Aawaz' a popular Nepali show on Concord TV Channel 22 that raises awareness about the challenges faced by the Bhutanese community in diaspora. Tilak has written extensively on refugee issues. In 2017, the New Hampshire Union Leader recognized him as one of the '40 Under Forty' recipients. Tilak is still employed with BCNH and also serves as a residential instructor at Easter Seals.

Kayla Rossmeissl

Kayla Rossmeissl has worked for IINE-Manchester as an adult English teacher and citizenship preparation instructor for two years. If you've ever observed her class, you will see the joy in her eyes and hear the love she has for each student through her positive demeanor. While teaching is her profession, she is also pursuing her master's in TESOL at Southern New Hampshire University, serves as a master's assistant tutoring international students, and aids in aligning curriculum to the college and career readiness standards. Before the International Institute, Kayla served as a Peace Corps volunteer in China as an ESL instructor for a university of a "small" farm town in the Sichuan Province. Even though she grew up in Florida, she loves her home in New Hampshire where she enjoys multi-day hikes, rock climbing, traveling, making things with her hands, and spending time with her husband and two fur-children, Sam and Jude.

Meet the Storytellers

Theresa Okokon

Theresa Okokon is a Wisconsin native, social worker, yoga teacher, and storyteller. After performing at IINE's "Suitcase Stories LIVE!" event in Arlington, Massachusetts this past May, Theresa joined the International Institute's development team as a gift processor. Theresa is also the founder and director of LEGIT.yoga, which provides trauma-informed yoga to individuals who are homeless, low-income, or otherwise marginalized and disenfranchised. A feature storyteller throughout greater Boston, Theresa was selected as one of two hosts for the televised WGBH series *Stories from the Stage* in May 2017.

Abdullah Kashmoola

Abdullah Kashmoola was born and raised in Iraq, and lived in Egypt for 10 years before resettling to the United States with the assistance from the International Institute of New England in September 2015. Currently, Abdullah is a full-time student at Manchester Community College majoring in computer science, in addition to working full-time as a garage attendant. He loves technology and likes to remain current on all emerging products and software. He also likes music, movies and spending as much time on the beach as possible.

Emma Tobin

Emma Tobin was born in Massachusetts, grew up in New Hampshire, and considers herself to be "from" both places. She has worked with refugees and immigrants in many parts of the world including her two home states, India, England, and along the Thai-Burma border. She has also worked with marginalized communities in Nepal. She has held positions with World Education, Inc., Harvard School of Public Health, and is the former Associate Director of the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success in Manchester, NH. Emma loves writing, traveling, being an anthropology geek, and all things spicy. She is honored to serve as Program Director for the International Institute of New England - Lowell.

Deo Mwano

Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Deo Mwano is an innovative, multi-cultural leader in education, organizational leadership, and social justice. He teaches people to follow a path of self-improvement and dedication to others. Growing up during a violent civil war, Deo became the patriarch of the family at the age of nine. In 2000, Deo, his mother, and his three younger brothers resettled to the United States where they participated in IINE's programming in Manchester. A gifted performer and presenter, Deo's talents have been featured at Yale University, The Moth, TEDxAmoskeag Millyard, and more. Deo has worked at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) College For America and managed Kepler University partnership, bringing SNHU education to students in Rwanda. He holds a B.A. in International Relations and History and a MBA in Strategic Leadership. Deo was also a '40 Under 40' recipient.