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*We support the rights of immigrants and their families, giving priority to those who live or work on the Olympic Peninsula and immigrant detainees within Washington State, through access to legal services, standing witness, family support, community education and advocacy.*

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**Note from Outreach Coordinator Natalia Durán:**  
Women's Justice Circle

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The voices of women who are low-income, immigrant, or on the margins, are usually not included in organizing for change in ways that meet their needs. There are approximately 220 Women's Justice Circles happening all over Washington State. This program is part of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center.

As a woman who belongs to the immigrant community, I have found myself in different situations that were easier to navigate because I have a support system. However, not every person that migrates has family or speaks the language. When the resources are available, not everyone has access to them. Here is where community involvement can play an important role.

JCIRA knows the importance of the stories told by the people who have lived through them. Women's Justice Circles are a way to create community and empower women to take the lead in decision making.

Beginning the second week of September and occurring weekly for 8 weeks, women from the immigrant community will gather at JCIRA Multicultural Center. These women will get to know each other, share their challenges and dreams, and work on a specific project to make a positive and important impact in their family's lives.

## SAVE THE DATE! JCIRA General Meeting

September 28 5:00 pm

Quimper Unitarian 2333 San Juan Ave

Come join your JCIRA friends for a Talk About Resilience

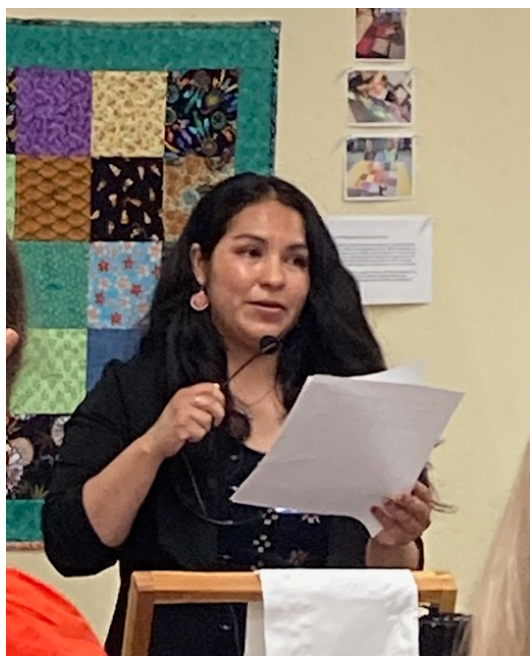
**Resilience: A Journey into Immigration Enforcement and the lives of Latinx Students in Eastern Washington**

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Explore with me the natural beauty of Eastern Washington as a backdrop to two stories woven together in a tapestry of immigrant experiences: I will share aspects of the analysis of records obtained through public access requests which document the illegal collaboration of local law enforcement with federal immigration enforcement in the region, and contrast this with the life experiences of UW students who grew up in that same region. I share students' stories of resilience and perseverance that contrast with the evidence of racist and illegal persecution of immigrants, all in the beautiful setting of an imaginary journey along the Columbia River basin in Eastern Washington.

Dr. Gomez will also be presenting in Spanish at the Multicultural Center  
November 30th

## Grand Opening of the Multicultural Center: In Pictures



ceremonies and party, THANK YOU! Clockwise from top left (or top to bottom): Natalia, Outreach Coordinator. Camelia Jade provided music. JCIRA Board Chair Larry Jensen listens to Port Townsend Mayor David Faber. Larry with Miriam McMahon and volunteer Roberta Lindeman. For more details, check our website [here](#).

## The Real Crisis on Our Southern Border

Some politicians claim that there is a crisis at our southern border due to the “invasion” of migrants seeking entry to the US, particularly those who enter illegally. Over the last two years there have been about 200,000 migrant encounters per month at the Mexico/U.S. border, including persons requesting asylum and those who cross without authorization and are detained by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). It does not include entries of persons holding Visas. It is impossible to accurately count the number of persons crossing the border without being caught (“getaways” in CBP jargon), but it is estimated that there are about 50,000 per month. Countries of origin are no longer primarily Mexico and the northern triangle countries (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala). Origins are much more varied and many are of much greater distance from the US:

### CBP Encounters at the Mexico/US Border in 2022 by Country of Origin

Mexico	808,339	Brazil	53,457
Guatemala	231,565	Peru	50,662
Cuba	220,908	Ukraine	25,364
Honduras	213,023	Ecuador	24,060
Venezuela	187,716	Russia	21,763
Nicaragua	163,876	India	18,308
Columbia	125,127	Turkey	15,445
Other	110,699	Romania	5,992
El Salvador	97,030	China	2,176
Haiti	53,910		

The breakdown based on family units is 64% single adults, 27% families, and 9% unaccompanied minors. Since the pandemic and continuing to the present, almost all encounters result in immediate expulsion – contrary to US law that states anyone physically present in the US, irrespective of status, has the right to request asylum and have their request adjudicated. The basis for such expulsion was Title 42, and now the Biden administration policy requires those who pass through another country to seek and be denied asylum there, with the Orwellian official name Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP).

Claims that many or most of these “illegals” are terrorists are never backed up by evidence, and in fact are false. The conservative CATO Institute just issued a report titled *Terrorism and Immigration: A Risk Analysis, 1975-2022* available on their web site [cato.org](https://www.cato.org). The report concludes that almost all terrorism-related injuries and deaths attributed to immigrants (primarily 9/11) were conducted by persons with legal immigration status.



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true. The DEA reports that China is the main source of fentanyl trafficking; almost all of the fentanyl from Mexican cartels enters through legal ports of entry transported by couriers known as “mules,” and 82% of those arrested for trafficking fentanyl are United States citizens.

The real border crisis is a humanitarian one, caused by the US Border Patrol expelling or refusing entry to persons with a legal right to enter the country and request asylum. Thousands of persons, including families with children, are living at or near the border without adequate food or shelter subject to theft, murder, kidnapping, and extortion by gangs and cartels. There is a significant risk of death in making the attempt to cross. CBP reported recovering 856 bodies in 2022; the actual death toll is, by some estimates double the reported figure. Most deaths are due to dehydration or exposure in the desert, but there are also a number of drownings in the Rio Grande particularly since Texas installed their floating barrier. Persons turned back or expelled after an attempted crossing often remain in Mexican locations adjacent to the border. There they face inadequate nutrition and shelter as well as the risk of extortion, kidnaping, and violence.

Many deaths occur before migrants reach the border. There are the well known dangers of the journey across Mexico – an up to 3000 mile journey involving riding on top of the train known as The Beast, gangs, cartels, kidnapping, rape and trafficking, as well as arrest, extortion and violence by Mexican authorities. Those coming from or through South America may need to cross the notorious Darien Gap on foot. This 60 mile journey requires dealing with treacherous terrain, no roads, no police, and gangs of bandits. Panama estimates that some 250,000 persons attempted the crossing in 2022 and projects that the number will grow to 400,000 in 2023.

Given the costs, difficulties, and risks of the journey and the limited chance of success, why do they come? Can the nebulous promise of a better life justify the effort? Perhaps the answer is in the poem “Home” by Warsan Shire.

Submitted by Larry Jensen

## Home

by Warsan Shire

no one leaves home unless  
home is the mouth of a shark  
you only run for the border  
when you see the whole city running  
as well

your neighbors running faster than you

breath bloody in their throats  
the boy you went to school with  
who kissed you dizzy behind the old tin  
factory

is holding a gun bigger than his body  
you only leave home  
when home won't let you stay.

no one leaves home unless home  
chases you  
fire under feet  
hot blood in your belly

and one prison guard  
in the night  
is better than a truckload  
of men who look like your father  
no one could take it  
no one could stomach it  
no one skin would be tough enough

the  
go home blacks  
refugees  
dirty immigrants  
asylum seekers  
sucking our country dry  
niggers with their hands out  
they smell strange  
savage  
messed up their country and now they  
want  
to mess ours up  
how do the words  
the dirty looks  
roll off your backs  
maybe because the blow is softer  
than a limb torn off

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	<p>your neck and even then you carried the anthem under your breath only tearing up your passport in an airport toilet sobbing as each mouthful of paper made it clear that you wouldn't be going back.</p> <p>you have to understand, that no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land no one burns their palms under trains beneath carriages no one spends days and nights in the stomach of a truck feeding on newspaper unless the miles travelled means something more than journey. no one crawls under fences no one wants to be beaten pitied</p> <p>no one chooses refugee camps or strip searches where your body is left aching or prison, because prison is safer than a city of fire</p>	<p>your legs or the insults are easier to swallow than rubble than bone than your child body in pieces. i want to go home, but home is the mouth of a shark home is the barrel of the gun and no one would leave home unless home chased you to the shore unless home told you to quicken your legs leave your clothes behind crawl through the desert wade through the oceans drown save be hunger beg forget pride your survival is more important</p> <p>no one leaves home until home is a sweaty voice in your ear saying- leave, run away from me now i dont know what i've become but i know that anywhere is safer than here</p>

CLASSES AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER

English as a Second Language: Fall Class - New Teacher

The evening ESL class will start up again on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The class meets from 6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesdays and has a new instructor this year. Sue Lemay has many years of experience teaching ESL, basic skills, college prep, and high school equivalency and credit programs. She recently retired from Peninsula College, but her passion for teaching ESL has brought her to JCIRA.

The class is open to all levels of English learners, from absolute beginners to advanced students. With volunteers available to help with instruction, students will be divided into small groups to encourage conversation and to provide

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the needs and goals of the students who regularly attend class.

For more information or to sign up, please contact the JCIRA office at 360-232-6070 or email the instructor at [eslteachersuelemay@gmail.com](mailto:eslteachersuelemay@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you in class this year!

## Free English Classes for Adults

**Wednesdays from  
6:30-8:30 PM**

**Starting on September 13th**

At JCIRA's Multicultural Center  
2328 Washington St. in Port Townsend



**Come meet our new English  
teacher Sue Lemay!**

To register call or text  
360-232-6070 or email  
[eslteachersuelemay@gmail.com](mailto:eslteachersuelemay@gmail.com)



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Jefferson County  
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## Clases gratuitas de inglés para adultos

**Miércoles de  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**A partir del 13 de septiembre**

En el Centro Multicultural de JCIRA  
2328 Washington St. en Port Townsend



**Ven a conocer a nuestra nueva  
maestra de inglés, Sue Lemay**

Para registrarse llame o envíe un  
mensaje de texto al 360-232-6070  
o envíe un correo electrónico a  
[eslteachersuelemay@gmail.com](mailto:eslteachersuelemay@gmail.com)



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## Learn Spanish!

This fall, JCIRA is hosting both beginning and intermediate Spanish. Beginning Spanish will be taught by Francisco Ramirez, and intermediate Spanish by Katie Franco. See flyers for more information and how to sign up.

## Beginning Spanish Class

**Mondays 6:45 - 8:15 pm  
Starting on Monday, September 11th**

**Suggested \$5 donation per class for teacher**

At JCIRA's Multicultural Center  
2328 Washington St. in Port Townsend



**Taught by Francisca Ramirez**

To register call or text  
360-232-6070 or email  
[jcirawa@gmail.com](mailto:jcirawa@gmail.com)



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## Intermediate Spanish Class

**Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am**

Starting on Wednesday, September 13th  
(There will be a 3 week break in October)

**Suggested \$10 donation per class for JCIRA**

At JCIRA's Multicultural Center  
2328 Washington St. in Port Townsend



**Taught by Katie Franco**

To register call or text  
360-232-6070 or email  
[jcirawa@gmail.com](mailto:jcirawa@gmail.com)



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County Community Picnic at the HJ Carroll Park on August 20. We enjoyed having this opportunity to reach out to the community and identify future volunteers! Pictured: Linda (Board member, standing), with volunteers Alexandra, Isabel, and Emily.

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## HELP WANTED

### INTERESTED IN PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO IMMIGRANTS?

Consider joining the Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC), a partner to JCIRA, in becoming an Accredited Representative. See flyer below.

### HOW'S YOUR ALGEBRA?

Chimacum High School/ Middle School needs tutors in Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:15- 3:15. Starting September 19th. Math help needed in Algebra I, II and III, Geometry, Trig. Email [daedelstein2@gmail.com](mailto:daedelstein2@gmail.com) or call 206-769-9563.

### IMMIGRANT WANTS TO LEARN COMPUTER USE

A local immigrant with very little experience in using computers would like regular learning sessions, especially during the fall and winter. For more information, contact Libby Palmer, [libbypalmer2@gmail.com](mailto:libbypalmer2@gmail.com)

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## directly with the immigrant community providing essential services?

Consider joining KIAC's local Port Townsend legal services team as a volunteer Accredited Representative (AR)!

ARs get their certification from the US Department of Justice, and **provide crucial immigration legal aid to low-income clients**. Some examples of what they can do: **help people get their green cards, become US citizens, and help reunite families!**

Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center has an office in Port Townsend to serve local people on the Olympic Peninsula!

**Interested in learning more about the program?** Email [jcirawa@gmail.com](mailto:jcirawa@gmail.com) to set up an informational meeting with the Port Townsend KIAC office!



## Festivals! Concerts! Celebrate Mexican Independence and Hispanic Heritage this Month

### Saturday, September 16: Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Experience Hispanic culture, music, dance and food at the Willapa Harbor Community Center in South Bend, see flyer below.

### Sunday, September 17: Concierto El Grito

“El Grito” is a spirited commemoration of Mexico’s independence and serves as a symbol of Mexican heritage and unity. It takes its name from the famous “Grito de Dolores” (Cry of Dolores), a call to arms that marked the beginning of Mexico’s struggle for independence from Spain in 1810. La Orquesta Northwest, the Consulate of Mexico in Seattle, and Town Hall Seattle are excited to share with you the “El Grito” Ceremony.

“El Grito” es una emotiva conmemoración de la independencia de México y sirve como símbolo de la herencia mexicana y la unidad. Toma su nombre del famoso “Grito de Dolores”, un llamado a las armas que marcó el inicio de la lucha de México por su independencia de España en 1810. La Orquesta Northwest, el Consulado de México en Seattle, y Town Hall Seattle se complacen en compartir con ustedes la Ceremonia de “El Grito”.

For more information, see flyer below or check out [El Grito – Town Hall Seattle](#)



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**FREE - FAMILY FRIENDLY**  
**HISPANIC**  
**HERITAGE**  
**CELEBRATION**

Experience Hispanic Culture,  
Music, Dance, Food!

**SAT. SEPT 16, 3-8 PM**

Willapa Harbor Community Center  
South Bend - 916 W. First St

Cultural Displays, Success Stories,  
Door Prizes! Win a TV or  
Trampoline!

Info/Questions? 360-342-0014  
[info@pcisupport.org](mailto:info@pcisupport.org)

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 **COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN**  
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The power of community

 **Amerigroup**

### Play The Green Card Game!

This online app from the CATO Institute gives a realistic picture of just how hard

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## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Medical and Health

JC Mash (free clinic)  
136 Water Street, Suite 109  
PT, WA 98368 360-385-4268

JFC Express Clinic  
834 Sheridan St., Suite B  
PT, WA 98368 360-385-2204

North Olympic Healthcare Network  
Two locations in Port Angeles  
360-452-7891 [www.nohn-pa.org](http://www.nohn-pa.org)

Jefferson Dental Clinic  
915 Sheridan  
PT, WA 98368 360-344-1005

Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization  
1110 Jefferson St., PT, WA 98368  
360-379-3246 [www.echhojc.org](http://www.echhojc.org)

WIC Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and  
Children under 5  
Jefferson County Public Health  
615 Sheridan St., PT, WA 98368  
360-385-9432

### Food

All Food Banks:  
[Jeffersoncountyfoodb  
anks.org](http://Jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org)

Quilcene Food Bank  
294952 US 101  
Quilcene, WA 98376

Tri-Area Food Bank  
760 Chimacum Road  
Chimacum, WA  
98325  
360-385-9462

Port Townsend Food  
Bank  
1925 Blaine Street  
PT, WA 98368

### Other Services

Dove House Advocacy Services  
Advocacy, basic needs, housing assistance, and  
other resources for recent and past victims of  
domestic violence, sexual assault and general

### Housing

Bayside Housing and  
Services  
[www.baysidehousing.  
org](http://www.baysidehousing.org)

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1045 10<sup>th</sup> Street, PT WA 98368  
Office and 24/7 Crisis Line: 360-385-5291

Port Hadlock, WA  
98339  
360-385-4637

St. Vincent de Paul  
Help with needs like food, gas, prescriptions,  
mobile phones/minutes, propane, utilities,  
medical/dental expenses, repairs, clothing and  
laundry.  
<https://svdpejc.org/>  
360-379-1325

Jefferson County  
Emergency Shelter  
Located in the  
basement of the  
American Legion  
209 Monroe St, Port  
Townsend, WA 98368  
Regular hours 4:00  
PM-8:00 AM 7 days a  
week.

Olympic Community Action (OlyCAP)  
Provides assistance for all basic needs (rent,  
utilities, energy, prescriptions, gas, public  
transportation, etc.) for low-income households.  
[www.olycap.org](http://www.olycap.org)  
823 Commerce Loop Quilcene, WA 98376  
360-385-2571

## DONATE TO JCIRA!

**Support our mission by donating to JCIRA. Click on the word Donate or click [Here](#) to go to the donation page on our website. Thank you for considering!**



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