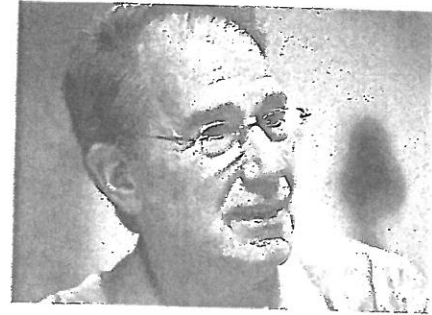


WELCOMING REFUGEES TO WESTCHESTER

Stories of Escape and Resettlement

January 11, 2017 at 7:30 pm
Congregation Sons of Israel,
Briarcliff Manor, NY



Chris George,
Keynote Speaker

This program, organized jointly by several faith communities in Ossining/Briarcliff Manor/Croton-on-Hudson and the Westchester Refugee Task Force, will feature first hand accounts of what life is like for a refugee by Nya Chambang, founder of the Thon Met African Peace Foundation, and Sana Mustafa, a young Syrian activist who sought asylum in the U.S. after her father had been “disappeared” by the Assad regime. Then Chris George, Executive Director of IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) in New Haven, CT will give the keynote address. IRIS has had a long and successful track record of partnering with Connecticut communities to integrate refugee families into American society. We’ve asked Chris to discuss the additional difficulties that refugees are likely to face in the wake of the 2016 presidential election, and how we can help them become autonomous, self-sustaining members of our communities when they do arrive. The event is free and open to the public.

Welcoming Refugees Workshop

January 22, 2017, 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Mariandale Conference and Retreat Center
Ossining, NY

This workshop is designed primarily for civic group/faith community leaders who want to play a key role in welcoming refugees to Westchester. The presentations and panel discussions will explore in detail what is involved in re-settling a refugee family. HIAS and Catholic Charities will kick off the afternoon with a description of how their agencies intend to partner with local communities to help refugees adapt to life in our communities. These presentations will be followed by an evening meal. After dinner, there will be two panel discussions on how local resettlement committee volunteers can partner with local schools and social service agencies to create a warm and welcoming environment for refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers in our midst. The panel speakers will include a representative from the local Islamic community, Open Door Medical Services, and the Ossining School District. The workshop fee is \$35, and attendees must register in advance.