



**HENRY STREET
SETTLEMENT**

9th Annual Lillian Wald Symposium

WELCOMING NEW MIGRANT NEIGHBORS:

CAN NYC LIVE OUR IDEALS?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024



Henry Street Settlement is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to Lenape peoples, past, present, and future, and their continuing presence in the homeland and throughout the Lenape diaspora. We offer our care and gratitude to the land, water, and air of Lenapehoking.

Nulelìntàmuhëna èli paèkw Lenapehoking Kulawsihëmo ènta ahpièkw. Nooleelundamuneen eeli payeekw Lunaapeewahkiing. Wulaawsii kw neeli apiiyeekw.

We are glad because you people came to Lenapehoking. Live well when you are here.

Thank you to the Lenape Center and Emily Johnson for their partnership with Abrons Arts Center in developing this land acknowledgment.

MEET OUR PANEL



ALEXANDRA DÉLANO ALONSO is a professor of global studies at The New School and the Eugene M. Lang Professor for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring. She received her doctorate in international relations from the University of Oxford. Alonso is the author of *From Here and There: Diaspora Policies, Integration, and Social Rights Beyond Borders* and *Mexico and Its Diaspora in the United States: Policies of Emigration since 1848*. Her work explores the connections among academia, policy, and activism, addressing the inequalities underlying the causes of the forced displacement and the exclusion of migrants with precarious status. She also examines and participates in activism across borders through networks of migrant organizations, mutual aid, and memorial projects as a response and an alternative to existing policies and systems in the struggles for justice.



ALYSSA KATZ is executive editor of *THE CITY*, a nonprofit newsroom producing in-depth reporting on New York City and its neighborhoods. A former member of the *New York Daily News* editorial board, Katz was previously editor of *The New York World* and *City Limits*. Katz writes about housing, mental health, and the intersection of business and government, including the books *Our Lot: How Real Estate Came to Own Us* and *The Influence Machine: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Corporate Capture of American Life*. She lives in Brooklyn.



ARNEL LANOY is originally from Venezuela, where he owned his own business as a barber. Due to unsafe circumstances, he left Venezuela and made his way to Ecuador where he suffered kidnapping and robbery. That traumatic event led to his decision to come to the United States with his son, as a single father. He traveled for two months to the United States, including through the Darién Gap in Panama, and then, the toughest part of the trip, the journey through Mexico. Once in New York he came to Henry Street Settlement and enrolled in English classes. He now works as a barber in New York City. He feels safe and grateful.

MEET OUR PANEL



HENRY LOVE is a developmental psychologist, inaugural Obama Foundation U.S. Leaders Fellow, and vice president of public policy and strategy at win (Women in Need), the nation's largest shelter provider to families experiencing homelessness. Love holds an MA in education policy and social analysis from Columbia University and a PhD in psychology from the City University of New York Graduate Center. Love's technical expertise and research interests span various antipoverty programs and policies, including addressing implicit racial bias, affordable housing, child and youth homelessness prevention, guaranteed income, and childhood adversity. Love worked closely with the New York City Council to draft and pass NYC Local Law 35, which requires behavioral health resources in all NYC family homeless shelters. He has advised government officials at the city, state, and federal levels on solutions to child and family homelessness, as well as how to respond to the current immigration crisis.



EDAFE OKPORO is the founder of Refuge America. After migrating to the United States in 2016 as an asylum seeker, he helped create the first shelter for asylum seekers in New York City. A global gay rights activist, Okporo founded Refuge America to strengthen the United States as a welcoming place for displaced LGBTQ people. Working with faith organizations, community members, and local government agencies in various cities, he is committed to helping refugees reconstruct their lives and find security, offering a lifeline to those who have been compelled to escape their homelands due to persecution and other hardships.



JODI ZIESEMER is the director of the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)'s Immigrant Protection Unit. Jodi leads a large team of innovative and passionate immigration advocates. She also works with senior management to establish and implement a strategic vision for the unit, manages grants, and develops effective programs to meet client needs. Prior to joining NYLAG, Jodi was a supervising attorney at Catholic Charities in its Unaccompanied Minors Program. There, she coordinated representation of recently arrived unaccompanied immigrant children and oversaw a team of attorneys who provide services to immigrant youth detained with the Office of Refugee Resettlement. In addition, she has worked for the past 10 years representing a wide variety of immigrants before immigration court and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Jodi is a graduate of New York Law School and holds a master's degree in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



READING LIST



MEMOIRS:

Somewhere We Are Human: Authentic Voices on Migration, Survival, and New Beginnings, Reyna Grande and Sonia Guiñansaca
The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You, Dina Nayeri
Asylum: A Memoir and Manifesto, Edefe Okporo
Rivermouth: A Chronicle of Language, Faith, and Migration, Alejandra Oliva
Solito, A Memoir, Javier Zamora

U.S. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM:

New Narratives on the Peopling of America: Immigration, Race, and Dispossession, T. Alexander Aleinikoff, Alexandra Délano Alonso
Cruelty as Citizenship: How Migrant Suffering Sustains White Democracy, Christina Beltran
One Quarter of the Nation: Immigration and the Transformation of America, Nancy Foner
A is for Asylum Seeker: Words for People on the Move, Rachel Ida Buff
Queer and Trans Migrations: Dynamics of Illegalization, Detention, and Deportation, Eithne Luibheid and Karma R. Chávez
Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions, Valeria Luiselli
Humanizing Immigration: How to Transform Our Racist and Unjust System, Bill Ong Hing

BORDERS:

Borderlands/La Frontera, Gloria Anzaldúa
Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism, Harsha Walia
Undoing Border Imperialism, Harsha Walia
The Case for Open Borders, John Washington

HISTORICAL ROOTS OF MIGRATION FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA:

Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America, and the Making of a Crisis, Jonathan Blitzer
Central America's Forgotten History: Revolution, Violence, and the Roots of Migration, Aviva Chomsky
Barrio Rising: Urban Popular Politics and the Making of Modern Venezuela, Alejandro Velasco

NYC & LOWER EAST SIDE FOCUS:

City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York, Tyler Anbinder
Latinos in New York: Communities in Transition: Second Edition, Sherrie Bayer, Angelo Falcón, Gabriel Haslip-Viera
One Out of Three: Immigrant New York in the Twenty-First Century, Nancy Foner

CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Hear My Voice/Escucha mi voz: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States, Warren Binford
Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation, Edwidge Danticat
Baba, What Does My Name Mean? A Journey to Palestine, Rifk Ebeid
Dreamers, Yuyi Morales

henrystreet.org/lws2024-booklist

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ABOUT THE LILLIAN WALD SYMPOSIUM

Henry Street Settlement's annual Lillian Wald Symposium examines the most pressing issues affecting the Lower East Side, past and present. Launched in 2016, the event is named for Henry Street's iconic founder, who was a staunch advocate and Progressive-era changemaker in the areas of public health and children's, labor, immigrant, civil and women's rights.

2016



CAN WE END HOMELESSNESS?

Moderated by President & CEO David Garza and featuring:

- Steven Banks, commissioner, New York City Department of Social Services
- Stephen Levin, New York City Council Member
- Christine Quinn, president & CEO of Women in Need
- Ethan Sribnick, PhD, author and historian

2017



IMMIGRANT NEW YORK: THE NEW MAJORITY

Moderated by President & CEO David Garza and featuring:

- Shanna Castillo, founder of Love Trumps Hate Sunset Park
- Zeinab Eyega, executive director of Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families
- Wayne Ho, president and CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council
- Philip Kasinitz, PhD, presidential scholar of sociology, CUNY Graduate Center
- Baseera Khan, a 2017 Artist in Residence at Abrons Arts Center
- Bitta Mostofi, assistant commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Linda Sarsour, racial justice/civil rights activist

2018



NEVERTHELESS, SHE'S PERSISTED: ILLUMINATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF LILLIAN WALD

Moderated by journalist and author Nina Bernstein and featuring:

- Clare Coss, playwright and activist
- Marjorie Feld, historian and Lillian Wald biographer
- Blanche Wiesen Cook, historian and professor
- Damaris Reyes, executive director of the Good Old Lower East Side

2019



CAN NEW YORK CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS BE SOLVED?

Moderated by *New York Times* architecture critic Michael Kimmelman and featuring:

- Damaris Reyes, executive director, Good Old Lower East Side
- Jaclyn Sachs, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
- Julia Duranti-Martinez, New Economy Project
- Nicolas Dagen Bloom, New York Institute of Technology
- Isaac Henderson, L + M Development Partners

ABOUT THE LILLIAN WALD SYMPOSIUM

2020



WHO GETS TO VOTE?

Moderated by Henry Street Public Historian Katie Vogel and featuring:

- Sean Morales-Doyle, deputy director of the Brennan Center for Justice
- Dominique Jean-Louis, public historian
- Wennie Chin, senior manager of civic engagement with the New York Immigration Coalition

2021



BLACK COMMUNITIES ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE: EXPLORING FOUR CENTURIES OF HISTORY

Moderated by Nicole Daniels, staff editor, The New York Times Learning Network

- Rhonda Evans, assistant chief librarian, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- Woodie King, Jr., Founder, New Federal Theatre
- Lauren C. O'Brien, public historian, Rutgers University-Newark
- Brian J. Purnell, Professor of Africana Studies and History, Bowdoin College
- Kamau Ware, artist and founder of Black Gotham Experience

2022



WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE? MAKING ENDS MEET IN NYC

Moderated by Paul Sonn, the state policy program director of the National Employment Law Project

- Raysa Rodriguez, chief program & policy officer, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
- Maura Cuffie, director of strategic initiatives, guaranteed income, Creatives Rebuild New York
- Tsedeye Gebreselassie, director of work quality, National Employment Law Project
- Samir Sonti, assistant professor & historian, CUNY School of Labor & Urban Studies

2023



HOW DO WE MEET THE NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN NYC?

Moderator Andy Newman, social services reporter for *The New York Times*

- George Aumoithe, assistant professor in the Department of History and the Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University
- Jose Cotto, senior vice president for residential treatment at the Institute for Community Living
- Omar Fattal, MD, system chief for behavioral health and co-deputy chief medical officer, NYC Health + Hospitals
- Jo-Ann Abrams RN, MS, CRNP, psychiatric nurse practitioner at Henry Street's CONNECT program
- Arvind Sooknanan, board member and community advocate at Fountain House

ABOUT HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

Henry Street Settlement opens doors of opportunity for Lower East Side residents and other New Yorkers through social service, arts, and health care programs. Henry Street serves all ages through its Abrons Arts Center, Employment, Education, Athletics & Enrichment, Older Adult Services, Health & Wellness, and Transitional & Supportive Housing divisions. Visit henrystreet.org for a full list of programs and contact information.

WHAT WE DO

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Community Consultation Center: mental health services
- Dale Jones Burch Neighborhood Center
- Public benefits enrollment
- Parent Center
- School-based mental health care
- Vocational rehabilitation
- CONNECT “clinic without walls”

OLDER ADULT SERVICES

- Naturally Occurring Retirement Community: social work and nursing services; case management
- Older Adult Center
- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Companion Program

TRANSITIONAL & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- Shelter and supportive services for homeless families, adults, and survivors of domestic violence
- Supportive housing
- Aftercare services

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

- Community Advisory Board
- Community Response Team
- Voter registration
- Participatory budgeting

EDUCATION

- Early childhood education
- Afterschool and evening programming
- Athletics & Community Enrichment (A.C.E.S.)
- Summer camps
- Expanded Horizons College Access & Success Program
- Lower East Side Youth Opportunity Hub

EMPLOYMENT

- Work readiness, English for speakers of other languages, GED Classes
- Customized staffing services for employers
- Free computer access
- Summer youth employment
- Hard skills training

ARTS & HUMANITIES

- Cutting-edge performances and exhibitions at Abrons Arts Center
- Obie Award-winning theater
- Arts in education
- Artist residencies
- Subsidized studio & theater rentals
- Music, visual arts, dance, and theater classes
- *The House on Henry Street* exhibition, walking tour, and online curriculum
- Hope & Resilience on the COVID Frontlines: Oral History Project

