

## ***'WE BELONG ASYLUM HILL' INITIATIVE***

**2012** – National Conference, Welcoming America, Boston, MA- attended by Hartford Public Library and Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association Members.

**September 2012** – AHNA and HPL formed an official partnership to engage Asylum Hill residents - from both the receiving and immigrant communities.

**November 2012** – AHNA and HPL co-hosted a *Community Conversation* at Mark Twain Library to share a meal and discuss their views on the assets and deficits of the neighborhood and how the neighborhood's overall quality of life can be improved.

**May 2013** -A second *Community Conversation* co-hosted by AHNA and HPL was held at Immanuel Church to identify the collective skills and talents that neighbors possess which might be tapped to address a number of issues discussed at the November 2012 *Community Conversation*. **The Asylum Hill Welcoming Committee was born.**

**June 2013** –the **Welcoming Committee established** to work with new arrivals in Asylum Hill.

**Fall 2013, 2014, and 2015** -Hosted *Cheer for Community* and bused residents downtown to participate in the **Hooker Day Parade**.

### **Summer 2013**

- **Hartbeat Ensemble Family Movie series**- offered free monthly movies to resident families, most of whom live nearby but were unfamiliar with the theater and its programs.

-**ESL Classes at Mark Twain branch** – adult residents from the Karen culture worked on their basic ESL skills.

-**DMV Driver's Manual**-vocabulary and content classes.

**Summer 2014 -New Voices of Asylum Hill** – in partnership with CPTV which videotaped the event, immigrant residents sharing their stories of challenge, triumph, and humor in their native language with Receiving Community members providing English translation.

**Fall 2014 -7 Focus Groups**- With a growing awareness of a lack of a neighborhood meeting space, a Welcoming America grant was obtained to justify the need for establishing a multicultural center in Asylum Hill.

**December 2014 -Report and Dinner Celebration**-to present results.

**May 2015 -Multicultural Steering Committee** convened with the challenge of determining space, program, staffing and funding needs.

**Summer 2015 -We Are Asylum Hill: Celebrate the Arts with Us**- a month long event celebrating the cultural diversity of Asylum Hill through art, crafts, dance and music.

**January 2017 -Asylum Hill Multicultural Corner Grand Opening** at the Asylum Hill Family Center.

## **Additional Links and Information**

Titles and links to selected RedTruckStonecatcher.com blog posts about life in Asylum Hill. Readers may also search by specific title on the blog website.

### **A Welcome Resource**

<http://www.redtruckstonecatcher.com/2017/02/a-welcome-resource.html>

### **Hidden Treasures Revealed**

<http://www.redtruckstonecatcher.com/2016/04/hidden-treasures-revealed.html>

### **Making Kafar's Dream Come True**

<http://www.redtruckstonecatcher.com/2017/03/making-kafars-dream-come-true.html>

### **My Friend Needs a Kidney Transplant**

<http://www.redtruckstonecatcher.com/2017/01/my-friend-needs-kidney-transplant.html>

### **New Year Celebration 2755**

<http://www.redtruckstonecatcher.com/2016/02/new-year-celebration-2755.html>

### **Building a Little Bit of Heaven in Hartford**

<http://www.redtruckstonecatcher.com/2016/02/building-little-bit-of-heaven-in.html>

### **Additional Information:**

#### **New Voices of Asylum Hill - YouTube**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHU3NzsDs\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHU3NzsDs_A)

#### **Voices of Wisdom: Newcomer Stories**

<https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/7PPkvS60mdVN-j6NEK56CdVErQ4fuNwW/media/340361?autostart=false&showtabssearch=true&fullscreen=false>

#### **WELCOMING AMERICA**

<https://www.welcomingamerica.org/about/values>

#### **THE AMERICAN PLACE / HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

<https://www.hplct.org/library-services/immigration-citizenship/community-civic-participation>