Celebrate our nation of immigrants and combat prejudice with The ILC

As a nation of immigrants, we are joined together by the journey we and our ancestors made. The Anti-Defamation League’s Centennial Nation of Immigrants Community Seder on March 3, 2013, uses the traditional celebration of the Exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt to reflect on all our unique journeys to becoming a member of this nation of immigrants.

I am honored to be the co-chair of this event. As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, I saw first hand the antisemitism my parents faced. Every time I look at the students at The Immigrant Learning Center, I see my parents. Every time they tell me about the discrimination they face, it feels personal. That’s why the Anti-Defamation League’s work to combat bigotry and racism is so important and so connected to the work of The ILC.

I hope you will consider joining us at the Community Seder for all faiths. [Click here](#) for details and to RSVP for this free event.

I am equally honored to announce The ILC’s second annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner to be held on May 8, 2013, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. At the inaugural Awards Dinner last year, we recognized three Massachusetts immigrant entrepreneurs. Each of them is an inspiration to me. Their stories are below.

If you are inspired by an immigrant entrepreneur, please submit a nomination for this year’s awards by March 15, 2013. Nomination Forms are available on our website at [www.ilctr.org/events](http://www.ilctr.org/events).

Thank you for your continued support.

Diane Portnoy
President and CEO, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
Outstanding neighborhood business

Larry Dossantos came to the U.S. from Cape Verde as a child. His love of cars led him to found 912 Auto Center in Dorchester. His love of his children and his community led him to modify his business practices to be more eco-friendly, build community gardens and launch a neighborhood advisory group for minority business owners.

Outstanding business growth

Julia Silverio is from the Dominican Republic. She started a business out of her home in Lawrence in 1984 that offered translation services, tax preparation, insurance travel and related services for the local Latino population. Silverio Insurance Agency grew to $2.5 million in 2011, an impressive 56 percent increase over 2009 revenue. Julia is also a philanthropist and significant voice in the Lawrence business community.

Outstanding science/technology business

Amar Sawhney came to the U.S. from India to attend graduate school. Fortunately for us, he stayed. He has founded five high-tech businesses in Massachusetts, and his inventions are the subject of more than 100 patents.

Amar is currently the CEO of both Ocular Therapeutix, Inc. in Bedford, which is developing a better way to treat glaucoma, and Augmenix, Inc. in Waltham, which has technology to decrease unintended damage to normal organs during radiation therapy.

About Us

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA, is a not-for-profit organization that helps immigrants and refugees become successful workers, parents and community members through direct service programs and public education. Our direct service program provides free year-round English classes to immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston. The ILC further supports immigrants through the Public Education Institute, which informs Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society. For more information visit http://www.ilctr.org.