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Diane Portnoy

President and CEO

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. launches new book *Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts*

MALDEN, Mass, January 21, 2013 / A new book from Malden-based The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. called *Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts*, distributed by University of Virginia Press January, 2013, and available for sale at Amazon.com, chronicles the experience of 11 immigrant groups in the U.S. Written by 11 experts in their respective fields, their stories share familiar themes of hope, setbacks, deep loss and perseverance as seen through the eyes of Chinese, Germans, Italians, Jews, Muslims and many others.

Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts was commissioned by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. and edited by its founder Diane Portnoy along with Barry Portnoy and Charlie Riggs as part of its ongoing efforts to educate the public about the contributions of immigrants to U.S. society. By documenting the common experiences shared by these immigrant groups, from discrimination to the struggles of assimilation and their ultimate contributions to American life, the book illustrates that current debates about immigration can be seen as an ongoing dialogue repeating the same themes throughout history.

Diane Portnoy founded The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. in November 1992 to provide free English classes to immigrant and refugee adults. Under her leadership, the organization has grown from three classrooms serving 60 students to a nationally recognized education center that serves more than 900 students each year and educates the public about the positive impact immigrants have on the American economy and communities. Her concern for immigrants and refugees grew out of her own immigrant experience as the daughter of Polish Holocaust survivors.

A copy of *Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts* has been donated to the Malden Public Library.

About The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, Mass, 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 the website <http://www.ilctr.org> and Facebook page <http://www.fb.com/ImmigrantLearningCenter>.

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