



CLARENDON HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



October 23rd, 2019

Press Release – *For Immediate Release*

Contact Information

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Learn to Talk Social Justice Series:

“Crossing the Line: In Search of Sanctuary”

A Collaboration between

Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church and the Nave Gallery

Somerville, Massachusetts

155 Powderhouse Boulevard

Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church, in collaboration with the Nave Gallery, announces our 5th annual Learn to Talk Social Justice Series. The theme of this series focuses our attention on the experiences of immigrants and refugees seeking sanctuary in a new place and coping with untold losses. What is our role as a nation, as a city, as communities of faith, and as individuals, in welcoming these strangers into our midst? Various events in this series will help us to reflect on this important public question. Proceeds from donations at these events will benefit *The Welcome Project* of Somerville, Massachusetts.

We are especially proud to announce this event in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the establishment of Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church in Somerville, Massachusetts! A special celebration and remembrance time will be held on Sunday, November 3rd. The Co-Moderator of the national Presbyterian Church (USA), the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, will deliver the message for the event. Mayor Joseph Curtatone and City Council President Katjana Ballantyne will also present a citation from the city for our 100 years of service to this beloved community. All are welcome to attend the service and a meal afterwards, and to explore the 2 major art exhibits on hand for the Learn to Talk series.

Nave Gallery Exhibit -- Opening Reception Nov. 1st!

CROSSING THE LINE: IN SEARCH OF SANCTUARY

The global refugee crisis today is the greatest since the end of World War II. There are nearly 68.5 million people who are forcefully displaced from their homes and cultures by war, repression, famine, and natural disaster. Comprised of work chosen through an open call, “*Crossing the Line: In Search of Sanctuary*” aims to share various artistic impressions on current immigration and refugee issues – personal, political and philosophical. Ranging from photographs of local first-generation communities to works on canvas created in Syrian refugee camps, the exhibition reminds us of the differences that bring us together.

JURIED BY: Gabriel Sosa

LOCATION: [Nave Gallery](#) (Teele Square), 155 Powder House Blvd, Somerville, MA

EXHIBITION DATES Friday, November 1, 2019 – Sunday, December 15, 2019

GALLERY HOURS: Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm or by appointment

ARTISTS: [Brandin Baron](#)/ [Joan L. Brown](#)/ [Robert Castagna](#) / [Paola de la Calle](#)/ [Ellen Dubreuil](#)/ Shoshanna Ehrlich/ [Susan Greer Emmerson](#)/ [Mia Fabrizio](#) / Ali Jokhadar/ [Kristen Mallia](#)/ Iartiza Menjivar/ Denise Orxata / [Ponnapa Prakkamasul](#)/ [Rajiv Raman](#) / [Ricardo Zapata](#)

ABOUT THE JUROR: *Gabriel Sosa* is an artist, linguist, and educator based in Boston. Born and raised in Miami, he obtained an M.F.A. from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in 2016. Through drawing, video, sound and installation, he explores translation, memory, and the justice system. Most recently, he has exhibited at the Tufts University Art Galleries and Lugar a dudas in Cali, Colombia. He is currently a Visiting Lecturer at MassArt.

OPENING RECEPTION / DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CONCERT

Friday, November 1, 2019; 6:00-8:00

Día de Muertos Concert performed by FBGM Boston-based Duo *FBGM* – *Matt Jatkola* and *Denise Orxata*, will perform a special Día de los muertos concert, featuring their brand of emotionally engaging music. Proceeds will be directed the Welcome Project.

<https://www.fbgmtheband.com/>

OTHER LEARN TO TALK EVENTS

All events held at 155 Powderhouse Boulevard

The City of Somerville has generously lifted the parking ban for visitor parking near the gallery and church during event hours, so feel free to *park on the street* or in the *Raymond Street parking lot of West Somerville Neighborhood School*. Nearest T transportation is through Davis Square, with bus service to Teele Square. See the clarendonhillchurch.org website for further directions.

Sunday, November 3rd -- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church's 100th Anniversary Service

The Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, the Co-Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), will join us for a special worship service to commemorate our 100th anniversary. In addition to the art exhibit in the Nave Gallery, CHPC will dedicate the "Art in Exile: Works from Syrian Refugee Camps" exhibition adorning the walls of our sanctuary. A community reception will follow. The service will center on the theme of Sanctuary and immigration, and the how this was in the roots of our faith community and continues to be a guiding principle for how we are called to be in the world. *Child care provided.*

Saturday, 11/16/19, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Author Reading by Grace Talusan – “The Body Works”

Grace Talusan was born in the Philippines and her book, *The Body Papers*, won the Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing. For more, go to <http://gracetalusan.com/>

Sunday, 11/17/19, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Community Panel Discussion

“Shelter from the Storm – The Importance of Sanctuary Cities”

This special community panel discussion will feature *Somerville Mayor Joseph Curatone*, *Prof. Susan Akram*, Boston University, *Ben Echevarria*, Executive Director, Somerville Welcome Project and Somerville Alderman, *Wilfred Mbah*. The panel will be moderated by church member, *Prof. Helen Marrow* of Tufts University. *Child care provided.*

Sunday, 12/1/19, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Film Screening – “Carro” – Gustavo Rosa

An undocumented Brazilian immigrant living in the Boston area decides to buy a car in an effort to better his life. This film features the old Somerville High School. Gustavo Rosa is a local, award winning filmmaker and lives in Medford. Community reception to follow.

<https://www.grosafilm.com/films>