



Billy Walsh <bwalsh@natickma.org>

Natick Welcoming Immigration Policy

2 messages

deborah mael <debmael@gmail.com>
To: Selectboard@natickma.org

Sun, Dec 1, 2024 at 10:24 AM

Hello,

I have been a Natick resident for forty years. My husband grew up here; we raised our daughter here who married her Wilson Middle School sweetheart and who has now blessed us with three beautiful granddaughters.

I taught for over 42 years at a small college in Brookline which sadly closed its doors in May of 2019. I was privileged throughout those years to teach and, much more importantly, to learn from a diverse group of students, many first-generation college students, some recent immigrants, who embraced the opportunity to grow and to learn as Americans, no matter their backgrounds and ancestry. Their parents often worked two jobs; the students often balanced school with outside jobs and home responsibilities. I saw, through their eyes, the promise of education as transformative and an integral part of the American dream.

But I also saw in their eyes the fear, worry, and confusion, when a former President, in 2017, put into place a ban on visitors and immigrants from certain select countries. One of the students and I decided to put up a big, big, big sheet of paper that was headed with these words:

I am a proud and grateful _____ of _____ who emigrated from _____ to help make America great and to uphold its values

The paper went up by 7:30 in the morning, By 10:00, we had to add more paper to more walls so that more could sign their names and complete the sentence. By 5:00 that day, the lobby and the hallways were covered with stories of immigration, some from way back, some very recent, that told the story of promise, pride, and community care.

I can't help but think of the passage in the Holocaust Museum from Martin Niemoller who recognized the culpability of his earlier silence about the Nazi regime:

First [they came for the socialists](#), and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a [socialist](#).

Then [they came for the trade unionists](#), and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a [trade unionist](#).

Then [they came for the Jews](#), and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a [Jew](#).

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

This is my long way of saying that I hope you will support the Natick Welcoming Immigration Policy as a statement that follows the rule of law while upholding Natick as a community of promise and care.

Sincerely,

Debbie Mael (Mandino)

Bruce Evans <bevans@natickma.org>
To: deborah mael <debmael@gmail.com>
Cc: Selectmen <Selectboard@natickma.org>

Sun, Dec 1, 2024 at 10:46 AM

Thank you for writing such an eloquent and moving email!

Both my parents came to the US after WWII & became citizens. Along with my three brothers, I was born in the USA and got many opportunities that I might not have had if I lived elsewhere.

I think of the many lives you've helped through your work. Our community is well-served by having caring residents such as you.

It might be premature to wish you Happy Holidays but I'm doing it anyway!

Best regards,

Bruce Evans

[Quoted text hidden]