

# City of Lewiston Press Release

**Members of the Media:** Below please find a press release announcing an **April 5<sup>th</sup>** event entitled **“Celebration of Immigration: Stories of Struggles & Successes”** to be hosted by the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Lewiston Memorial Armory. The **free event** is open to the public, and five panelists will share their/their family’s journey of coming to Lewiston. Any coverage that the media could provide to help **“get the word out”** would be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Dottie

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**March 3, 2014**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEWISTON:** **“Celebration of Immigration: Stories of Struggles & Successes”** will be hosted by the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council on **April 5, 2014**, at the **Lewiston Memorial Armory**. The **2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** free event is a follow-up to the group’s well-received December cultural holiday event.

LYAC members have been discussing the various immigrants who have come to Lewiston throughout its history and believe it’s important to know about and reflect upon the journey of those immigrants. Upon meeting with Rachel Desgrosseilliers, the Executive Director of Museum LA, the youth council learned that the five (5) largest waves of immigrants to Lewiston have been the French, the Irish, the Greeks, the Lithuanians, and the Somalis.

Individuals representing those five groups will serve as panelists to **“tell their stories”** of how they or their family members came to Lewiston and what they experienced prior to arrival, upon arrival, and thereafter. Panelists will be:

**French: Rachel Desgrosseilliers**  
**Irish: John Henderson**  
**Greek: Jimmy Simones**  
**Lithuanian: Phyllis Deringis**  
**Somali: Zam Zam Mohamud**

In addition, community members are also invited to contact the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council if they would like to host a display table showing historic momentos from their own immigration journey to Lewiston . . . posters, photos etc.

Cultural food samples and music will also be on tap, as well as photos of immigrants throughout Lewiston’s history, compliments of Museum LA. At afternoon’s close, LYAC members will share what they’ve learned from interacting with the panelists and planning the event. ###