

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT
The Portland Library Presents

Befriending Our Afghan Neighbors



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MEETING CHAT TRANSCRIPTION

18:31:50 From Portland Library to Waiting Room Participants:

Hi. The meeting begins at 7 pm.

18:58:20 From Portland Library to Waiting Room Participants:

Welcome. Participants, except for those presenting, please be sure you are muted and your video is off. Please enter your name if it is not displayed. To RENAME click on the 3 dots ... near your name in your zoom box.

19:01:52 From Portland Library to iPad(Direct Message):

To RENAME click on the 3 dots ... near your name in your zoom box.

19:02:35 From Beth Gould-Ruitto PRRG to Everyone:

Steve Im here

19:02:48 From Beth Gould-Ruitto PRRG to Everyone:

This is Beth

19:06:43 From Naseem Shaikh to Everyone:

Are we going to meet the Afghan family as well? it will be nice but not necessary. Thanks for everything you are doing to help with the resettlement of Afghan families.

19:10:44 From Carla Harris (She.Her) to Everyone:

@Naseem, Our family has not been identified yet. Hopefully soon!

19:11:18 From Naseem Shaikh to Everyone:

Okay thanks.

19:15:31 From Portland Library to Beth Gould-Ruitto, PRRG(Direct Message):

Nice job Beth! Is this Ok to share? Regarding Q&A If your question cannot be answered this evening, Contact the PRRG at pctrng@gmail.com

19:21:36 From Portland Library to Steve Delaronde(Direct Message):

Arzoo is here!

19:23:22 From Portland Library to arzoo(Direct Message):

Welcome Arzoo. You may know: You are next on the agenda after Saleha

19:23:34 From Portland Library to Caroline Murray Portland group(Direct Message):

Arzoo is here

19:24:06 From arzoo to Everyone:

Ok i will introduce myself

19:25:45 From Portland Library to arzoo(Direct Message):

That is Ok. Steve will introduce you. I will unmute you.

19:28:56 From Hope Jones to Everyone:

what are respectful titles for the family members

19:34:13 From Beth Gould-Ruitto PRRG to Everyone:

What type of canned goods or nonperishables can we stock the kitchen with?

19:36:03 From Portland Library to Carla Harris (She.Her)(Direct Message):

We have a hand raised - Elizabeth waller

19:36:07 From Pat Ludwig to Everyone:

Is there a particular translation App that could be used to communicate with the family?

19:36:18 From Hope Jones to Everyone:

Can Arzoo give us the written language for those titles? Either in chat or send it around to our different committees.

19:36:20 From STEPHEN ERNST to Everyone:

Olive oil? Nuts?

19:36:25 From Simone Howe to Everyone:

When we interact with the families, can we address them by their first, or given, names?

19:37:07 From STEPHEN ERNST to Everyone:

What types of drinks or teas?

19:39:37 From Elizabeth Hibino (she/her) to Everyone:

Arzoo, do you have any suggestions for us about interacting with the children in the family? Any experiences that your kids went through that could be useful for us to learn about?

19:44:01 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

QUESTION: Are there other Afghani families in Middletown they will be able to meet right away?

19:45:15 From Hope Jones to Everyone:

Are most of the adults able to drive?

19:45:25 From Martha D. to Everyone:

Is the proper term for the people "Afghan" or "Afghani"?

19:45:58 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

They may find they enjoy changes they can make here in various ways without fear.

19:48:47 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

They also need to know little things like how to properly turn on shower and adjust the water temperature...

19:49:20 From STEPHEN ERNST to Everyone:

Hello, all, this is most helpful. The girls of Mercy High School's robotics team are interested in helping the family in learning English, or tutoring if there are children of school age. Whom should they contact to make arrangements when the time comes?

19:49:51 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Wow..good point Carla! That could be frightening...

19:50:22 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Maybe even walk them by the fire department, and police stations...

19:52:23 From Beth Gould-Ruitto PRRG to Everyone:

If you unmute me I can speak to that

19:52:33 From Meg Scata Portland Schools to Everyone:

Can you speak about the roles of males and females and the social mores so we do not offend

19:56:06 From Naseem Shaikh to Everyone:

Host Please unmute us again. Thanks.

19:56:21 From Galaxy Tab A (2016) to Everyone:

Would it be difficult or improper for an Afghan Male to work with female coworkers?

19:58:44 From Hope Jones to Everyone:

Is there welcome when you arrive at a home?

19:59:30 From Debra Anderson to Everyone:

Is it ok to put your hand over your heart and bow your head

19:59:30 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

I wonder if there are business owners here who are of Afghan descent who can help with jobs and friendship....

20:01:44 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Gosh, I hope they can be helped to NOT feel embarrassed or ashamed of needing and getting help!

20:01:52 From Martha D. to Everyone:

Will it be difficult to encourage them to apply for benefits such as SNAP?

20:02:15 From Ann Labby 3 to Everyone:

If we purchased a sewing machine what kind would be familiar to them? Would they select the type of material they would want or could we purchase material?

20:02:21 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

It is SUCH a pleasure to be a little part of this conversation!

20:02:39 From Simone Howe to Everyone:

Where is the closest mosque to Middletown or Portland?

20:02:49 From STEPHEN ERNST to Everyone:

Is the Islamic community center on Washington St. still active? and if so, would that be a place to take them?

20:03:03 From Naseem Shaikh to Everyone:

Naseem.M.Shaikh@gmail.com and Shaikhramla@gmail.com from Avon CT

20:03:27 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Yes...perhaps a little conversation book put together.maybe they exist for their language...they must.

20:05:37 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

I hope they will understand they have a lot of freedom here and they are very able to say WHATEVER they are not comfortable with.

20:06:14 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

I mean that they never should feel any pressure to do something they do not want to.

20:07:34 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

QUESTION: Will the children in the schools here also be apprised of being welcoming, polite, etc. and learn a few words and to be ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOR!

20:09:26 From Martha D. to Everyone:

Unfortunately I need to drop off for another meeting, but this has been wonderful and I hope someone will circulate notes.

20:10:36 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

I wonder how difficult English is for Afghan people to learn...Arzoo speaks so well! I have heard listening to the news or even cartoons can help learn a language.

20:11:33 From STEPHEN ERNST to Everyone:

What school will the kids be attending?

20:12:50 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Also, crossing the street in Middletown is a learning experience...and watching for bikes, etc.

20:14:06 From Jesse R - Portland YFS to Everyone:

We'll put that slide back up at the end with your contact info

20:14:27 From Susan Macary to Everyone:

Does Middletown have a Refuge Resettlement Group as well? If so, is PRRG working with them (or could PRRG work with them) to combine resources?

20:14:28 From Pat Ludwig to Everyone:

Is there a popular family game often played in Afghanistan?

20:14:30 From Portland Library to Carla Harris (She.Her)(Direct Message):

Other immigrants have enjoyed library services such as free museum passes, free books and movies etc. If someone can help with translating library info such as brochures on services.. Middletown has many great resources and we will be very welcoming in Portland!

20:14:54 From kathycarr to Everyone:

I, too, must leave, but I've very much enjoyed this evening's presentation. Thank you all. I will be happy to volunteer for whatever you need when the time comes.

20:15:07 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Maybe they would like playing cards, chess and backgammon sets???

20:15:52 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Maybe SCRABBLE would be a good game for them too and may help learn the language?

20:16:41 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

Maybe futon beds?

20:17:26 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

I wonder if this family will find they like the choice of American beds we have here?

20:19:49 From STEPHEN ERNST to Everyone:

Would bicycles be helpful for the adults?

20:20:08 From Carla Harris (She.Her) to Everyone:

Our email - pctrng@gmail.com

20:20:22 From Elizabeth Waller to Everyone:

I was thinking about bikes too but wow they have to be careful with the traffic.

20:20:27 From arzoo to Everyone:

Very much helpful

20:21:16 From Saleha Qureshi to Everyone:

Thank you so much everyone!

20:21:52 From Hope Jones to Everyone:

Such helpful information. Thank you so much.

20:21:57 From Portland Library to Everyone:

Welcome to the New World is a book by Jake Halpern- story of a Syrian family who left their war torn country and arrived in the US November 2016. They settled in West Hartford! Portland Forum on February 2, 4 7 pm.