



**Embassy of the United States of America  
Invites you to a presentation by**

**Rachel Steinhardt, Deputy Director  
Welcoming America**

**FOSTERING WELCOMING CLIMATES**

FOLLOWED BY SCREENING AND OTTAWA PREMIERE OF THE FILM *HAWO'S DINNER PARTY*

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Embassy of the United States of America, Mackenzie Entrance**  
Refreshments served at 2:00 pm, Program begins at 2:30 pm



photo credit: Active Voice and Greg Poschman

This interactive session will explore approaches for reaching out to everyday Canadians to build trust with immigrant communities.

Participants will be introduced to the work of Welcoming America, and learn about strategies to develop new support and resources, including donor and community engagement models that help to sustain Immigrant integration activities.

**Space is limited. Please RSVP by Thursday, February 28th  
via email: [Perry-CaseBA@state.gov](mailto:Perry-CaseBA@state.gov) or phone: 613-688-3128.**

***You must RSVP in order to attend. Reservations are non-transferable. Please bring photo I.D.***  
Electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, and cameras) will be checked upon arrival.



*Please indicate special needs requirements when you RSVP.*  
*Paid Parking is available nearby in the Byward Market.*



## About Welcoming America

Welcoming America, founded in 2009, is a national, grassroots-driven collaborative that promotes mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans. Through a countrywide network of member organizations and partners, Welcoming America works to promote a welcoming atmosphere – community by community – in which immigrants and native born residents can find common ground and shared prosperity. Welcoming America’s work has its history in the award-winning Welcoming Tennessee Initiative, an effort that successfully transformed a hostile anti-immigrant climate in Tennessee, and was the subject of the 2011 PBS documentary, *Welcome to Shelbyville*.

Welcoming America is the first national organization in the U.S. that focuses its efforts exclusively on addressing the fears and concerns that native-born Americans often have in the face of rapid local immigrant growth. Welcoming America supports a national network of affiliates, currently in 21 states. With the help of Welcoming America’s tools and resources, these organizations work to transform their towns and cities into Welcoming communities. Welcoming America also directs the Receiving Communities Initiative, an effort to build and support a movement of individuals and organizations focused on involving longer-term Americans in immigrant integration.

## About our speaker

As the Deputy Director of Welcoming America, Rachel Steinhardt works at the national desk to ensure the success of all programs and operations, and to engage individuals and organizations around the country who share Welcoming America’s vision. She has held various leadership positions, including directing an English language and literacy intermediary organization serving 20,000 adult learners in the metro Washington, DC area and serving as a regional director with the United Way of the National Capital Area (Washington, DC). In September 2012, Rachel and her team at Welcoming America organized and hosted the Receiving Community Engagement track at the **National Immigrant Integration Conference** in Baltimore, Maryland.

## Program Description

This session will **introduce the work of Welcoming America** to local stakeholders and the community as a whole. It will **explore successful approaches for building trust and collaboration** with immigrant communities, with the goal of strengthening the shared U.S. - Canadian vision of improved settlement and integration outcomes of newcomers to our communities. Particular focus will be placed on **sharing new tools and resources for receiving community engagement**, including strategic communications, dialogue, and models for engaging new partners, such as the corporate sector, to help local immigrant service providers and other stakeholders **to sustain immigrant integration activities**. These activities help to engage mainstream Canadians in welcoming newcomers and supporting their full civic, social, and economic participation, which in turn **contributes to the success and vibrancy of our communities**.

Following Rachel’s talk, we will screen the Ottawa premiere of the film “**Hawo’s dinner party**”. Set in the heart of America’s Bible belt, “Hawo’s Dinner Party” is **adapted from producer and director Kim Snyder’s widely viewed and critically acclaimed 2009 film “Welcome to Shelbyville”**, screened in Ottawa to an audience of approximately 140 guests in June 2012.

## Basic Facts: On Immigration and Immigrants to Canada

Canada welcomed **262,332** immigrants in **2011-2012A** substantial majority of Canadians (**over 2 in 3 or 69%**) believe that their **society is strengthened** by having many cultural and religious groups (Association for Canadian Studies)

Immigration is responsible for **79% of Ottawa’s population growth** (2006 Canada Census)