Codman Square Health Center
CONNECTION
Spring 2017

Ali Noorani talks about his new book "There Goes the Neighborhood" in the Black Box Theatre on May 9, 2017.

FORMER CODMAN EMPLOYEE CHANGING NATIONAL IMMIGRATION CONVERSATION

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Out of the headlines into the communities dealing directly with immigration, Ali Noorani's new book, *There Goes the Neighborhood*, is a snapshot of the personal and communal challenges and opportunities of immigration in America. On May 9, 2017, Noorani stopped by Codman Square Health Center, his former home back when he was the Director of Public Health for both Codman and DotHouse Health in the mid-2000s, to have a conversation with Sandra Cotterell, talk about his book and perception on the current state of immigration in the U.S., and answer questions from the attendees. Now the Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum in Washington D.C., Ali interviewed nearly fifty local and national leaders from law enforcement, business, immigrant, and faith communities to illustrate the challenges and opportunities they face.

Ali Noorani, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum and Sandra Cotterell, Codman CEO.

Learning from his experiences in Public Health at Codman and his time at Boston University School of Public Health, Ali now is a sought-after commentator and immigration expert who approaches the issue from a framework of culture and collaboration rather than political identity and policy. Ali hopes his book will open new avenues for talking about immigration in the U.S. and give opponents and supporters a new vocabulary and perspective on the subject. Overall, the collective message from all the diverse voices in his new inspiring book is one of hope for the future.

Codman was proud to host his talk and will continue the conversation of engaging culture and support immigrants as we seek to foster understanding and an open door to anyone and everyone in the community.

CODMAN EMPLOYEES MAKING IMPACT IN HAITI

From seeing patients in Dorchester to changing lives in rural Haiti, transforming communities through providing health care and social services is at the heart of Codman Square Health Center, and our staff demonstrate that vision both here in Dorchester and across the world.

A provider at Codman since 2004, Dominique Entzminger, PA is originally from Les Anglais, Haiti, a small rural town in western Haiti far removed from access to a variety of health services. To make a difference in Haiti, Entzminger started the Anastasie Aubourg Foundation (AAF) in 2011, named after her late mother, to promote education and improve public health and well-being in Les Anglais and the surrounding areas of Haiti. Prior to starting AAF, Entzminger had spent 10 years volunteering and supporting the community through trips and sending supplies. Now with her foundation, Entzminger is able to make a larger impact on this community that is in need of basic forms of health care.

Beginning in 2012, AAF started sending mission trips to Haiti to provide medical services. The latest trip in mid-March 2017 brought Entzminger along with 3 other Codman Square Health Center staff members, Eileen Boyle, Lindsay White, NP, and Sal Molica, MD, and additional team members from other Boston-based health care facilities, to open a pop-up clinic which was able to see over 700 patients. The team cared for people with various conditions, including high blood pressure, diabetes and malaria. They saw a large pediatric population and cared for women who were breastfeeding, providing health education and breastfeeding techniques. Additionally, they were able to hand out over 700 pairs of glasses, giving many individuals the first pair of glasses they've ever had.

"This was my first trip to Haiti and I'm so grateful for the experience of working with the Foundation," said Lindsay White. "It was fantastic to get to know the place so many of our patients are from. Now that I've come back, I've been really enjoying swapping stories and memories about Haiti with our patients."

"I spent a year in Haiti back in 1986-87. It was extraordinary to go back and see a country that has experienced so much change in some areas and only little progress in others," reflected Dr. Sal Molica. "The communication technology has exploded, but a lot of the transportation and health care infrastructure still needs a lot of improvement. There is simply no standard of care for chronic disease or any system for preventative care. Our work made a great impact, but the need is far greater than anything that can be done in one trip."

In addition to the staff who travelled to help AAF, the Codman Square Health Center Lab and Codman Pharmacy both donated materials to take on the trip. Donations of household items and toys were also distributed, as well as school supplies donated to a local school. "I'm so grateful for all the support my colleagues at Codman Square Health Center have given to Anastasie Aubourg Foundation over the years," stated Dominique Entzminger. "This year we had one of our largest and most impactful trips and I can't thank the Codman family for all they've donated. The impact has really been felt in Haiti."

To learn more about the work of Anastasie Aubourg Foundation visit www.anaaubourgfoundation.org.

Pictured (below): Lindsay White, NP sees a patient at the pop-up clinic. (right) Eileen Boyle poses with a patient at the pop-up clinic.

TEACHING KITCHEN HAS ARRIVED

The vision began in 2007: a collaborative teaching kitchen space located in the Codman Square Tech Center at 450 Washington Street that allowed Codman Square Health Center and the upcoming partnership with Healthworks Community Fitness to run different programs to benefit the community. Now 10 years later it is finally here, the Teaching Kitchen at the reconfigured Wellness & Fitness Center at 450. Now a hub of wellness in the Dorchester neighborhood hosting Daily Table, Healthworks and seasonal free tax clinics, the Wellness & Fitness Center now has a flexible and beautiful teaching kitchen space for Codman Square Health Center, Daily Table and Healthworks to run programs.

In April 2017, Daily Table began its teaching kitchen programming, offering a wide range of free classes to help break in the space including Healthy Cooking on a Budget, After School Chefs, Cooking with your Kids, Food as Medicine: Diabetes Friendly, Senior Cooking and more! These are just the first of many programs that will be offered to the community through the new Teaching Kitchen.

The Teaching Kitchen would not have been possible without the financial support of numerous donors, including many members of the Dorchester community, as well as our Architects, Prellwitz Chilinski Associates, and our Teaching Kitchen Consultant, Ed Doyle from RealFood Consulting. To find out more about the Teaching Kitchen visit codman.org/services/teaching_kitchen.html

ASTHMA AT AAACN CONFERENCE

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the percentage of pediatric asthma cases in Massachusetts is the highest in the United States and the fourth leading cause of pediatric hospitalization in Massachusetts. There a multitude of problems contributing to the rise in pediatric asthma rate, including a lack of education about asthma, families living in poor housing, being unable to afford medications, and more.

In an effort to combat the rising rates of asthma, Codman has been coordinating better asthma care for our families. Funded largely through the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund grant, our efforts have included strengthening our asthma case management and promoting bi-directional communication between the health center and Boston Public Schools. At Codman there are 1,237 children ages 2-18 with an active asthma diagnosis, of which approximately 250 are high risk. The 200 patients engaged with our asthma nurse have helped our patients and families have a better grasp of their asthma and improve their care.

Our success led to presenting our project at the 42nd annual American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) conference in New Orleans on May 10, 2017. Our asthma nurse, Jhenane Joseph, presented for Codman. "I had the privilege to share my experience with pediatric asthma to over a thousand ambulatory care nurses," stated Joseph. "Through our program, I have been able to provide

in-depth teaching, community referrals, and increase wellness in school-aged patients who have been diagnosed with uncontrolled asthma."

The AAACN conference not only provided to teach hundreds of other nurses from around the nation about our work with asthma, but it provided Joseph with a life-changing experience. "Being a presenter was the most memorable and life changing educational experience that I have endeavored," said Joseph.

PENTIMENTI WOMEN'S WRITERS GROUP

By Laura Santel

Codman is helping community organizations thrive! Since 2010, Codman has provided its Board Room each Saturday morning to the Pentimenti Women's Writing Group, a gathering of writers working on poetry, memoirs, novels, essays, and everything in between. No matter the medium, the women are finding their voices and telling their stories, and helping one another to do the same.

Carol Dickerson, a member of the group since 2013, recalls the first time she encountered this community of writers. "I remember being struck at the talent sitting around the table. There were women at the same stage in life as I was, writing. I knew I could come in this room, talk about what I'm writing about, and there wouldn't be any judgment – just support and caring."

Carol D. Carter, who joined the group in 2010, recently finished her first novel and celebrated its publication with a reading at the Grove Hall library. "Now I've finished a book, I'm still writing, and I call myself a writer whenever I talk to anybody. I say it now without embarrassment. And many people talk to me about their writings, so I know many more people are out there with stories to tell and to share."

"The most special thing to me about the group is seeing the writers grow in confidence," said Ann Murphy, one of the group's two co-facilitators. "And we are so grateful to Codman for providing our group a comfortable space for that growth to occur – it has truly become our home."

The group is always looking for new members, and anyone interested in joining is welcome to come to the Pentimenti Open House on the last Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm. For questions or more information, email pentimentiwomen@gmail.com.

Members of the Pentimenti Women's Writing Group at a book signing for Ms. Carol Carter's novel Rowdy. From left, Thelma Woodson, Heidi Lewis-Ivey, Carol Carter, Laura Santel, Carol Dickerson, and Ann Murphy.

LAWRENCE VINSON RECEIVES BAYARD RUSTIN AWARD

At the annual Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast on April 1, 2017 at UMass Boston, Lawrence Vinson, Project Manager for Codman's HIV Testing Initiative, received the Bayard Rustin Award in recognition of his work in fighting HIV/AIDS within communities of color. The award is presented annually by the AIDS Action Committee and is named after Bayard Rustin who was an unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement. The award is given in recognition of his pioneering vision.

"Getting recognized with the Bayard Rustin award was a shock and a huge honor," stated Lawrence Vinson. "Doing the work to educate the public about HIV and working towards zero new infections can at times be challenging work, but it is incredibly rewarding. I'm proud to be doing this work now at Codman." Vinson is heading up Codman's upcoming Dorchester Knows campaign, helping all Dorchester residents learn their HIV status & broaden knowledge of HIV and AIDS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4 — **Dorchester Day Parade**
Dorchester Avenue
1:00pm

June 5 — **Clemente College Fair**
The Great Hall
6:00pm - 7:30pm

August 13-19 — **National Health Center Week**
Events throughout the week

Codman Square Health Center

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