

WELLESLEY LIBRARY

Talk on refugees

“This Land Was Made for You and Me: A Panel Discussion on Refugee Resettlement” is set for 7-9 p.m. Nov. 3 in the Wakelin Room of the Wellesley Free Library, 530 Washington St.

Civil conflicts, climate change and ethnic persecution are generating forcibly displaced persons at unprecedented levels. Sixty-five million people are living on the margins of global society. The refugee crisis, however, is not current — what’s current is that people are noticing.

The eruption of war in Syria and the subsequent mass migration of refugees into Europe has captured the media’s attention, forcing people to rethink assumptions about welcoming the stranger and sharing lived space and resources with others. This program will feature an introduction to forced migration by refugee trauma recovery specialist

Mick Hirsch. Two refugee survivors who have successfully resettled to the United States from Laos and Nepal will share their experiences moving from their homeland to refugee camps to a new, unfamiliar home in the United States. All are invited to come hear stories. The event is free and open to the public; jointly sponsored by Wellesley Neighbors, World of Wellesley and the Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries.

Hirsch is a graduate of the University of Chicago, the Yale University Divinity School and the Harvard Program in refugee trauma. He has worked in refugee resettlement at the International Institute of New England and, most recently, successfully developed a countrywide, urban refugee program with the UNHCR in Cambodia. He is the director of religious education and development at the



“This Land Was Made for You and Me: A Panel Discussion on Refugee Resettlement” is set for 7-9 p.m. Nov. 3 in the Wakelin Room of the Wellesley Free Library, 530 Washington St. COURTESY PHOTO

Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills.

Pon Nokham is a graduate of Lowell High School, Salem State University and the Suffolk University Law School. She has her own private practice in which she specializes in appeals, criminal defense and immigration. As a young girl, she left Laos with her family and lived in a refugee camp before coming to the United States.

Naina Adhikari is a graduate of Lowell High

School and Salem State University. She fled with her family from Bhutan to Nepal, where she grew up in a refugee camp. After arriving in the United States, Adhikari excelled at English, became a young leader in her community and now has the ambition of becoming a social worker to further support refugees resettling in the United States. She completed her senior internship at the International Institute in Lowell.