

EMERALD ISLE IMMIGRATION CENTER

www.eiic.org

Bronx Office
4275 Katonah Avenue, Woodlawn, NY 10470
Tel: 718-324-3039 – Fax: 718-324-7741

Queens Office
59-26 Woodside Ave, Woodside, NY 11377
Tel: (718) 478-5502 – Fax: 718 446 3727

Volume 3

April 2010



"Meeting the Needs of Immigrants"

**EIIC
FREE
CITIZENSHIP
CLASSES**

Location:
EIIC, Queens Office
For more information,
please call: **718 478 5502**

MONDAY & TUESDAY

6PM -8PM

Review the 100 questions on
U.S. Civics and History.

FRIDAY

6PM to 8PM

Practice general conversation,
writing, reading
for Citizenship Interview.

Inside this Edition:

- Page 1
Ellis Island Family History Day
- Page 2
Information on the Naturalization Process
- Page 3
Immigrant Heritage Week
- Page 4
EIIC Upcoming Events

EIIC'S NEW IMMIGRANTS NEWS

Ellis Island Family History Day

April 17, 1907 marks the busiest day of recorded immigration history, when the highest number of immigrants 11,747 men, women, and children, were processed through the facility in New York Harbor. April 17 Day is established by proclamation of America's governors as Ellis Island Family History Day. This annual day recognizes the achievements and contributions made to America by Ellis Island immigrants and their descendants.

Ellis Island opened in 1892 and admitted some 12 million people to the U.S. before closing in 1954, most of them at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. On April 17, 2001 the American Family Immigration History Center opened at Ellis Island. The center, located in the restored Main Building, contains the database records of more than 22 million passengers that arrived through the Port of New York between 1892 and 1924. You can research passenger records from the ships that brought the immigrants and also see the original manifests with the passengers' names.



Ellis Island



Arriving at Ellis Island

On April 17 2010 in commemoration of Ellis Island Family History Day ,Emerald Isle Immigration Center will provide free legal assistance with US Naturalization Application and information about Citizenship Preparation Classes to the New York City community, from 10 AM to 1 PM. EIIC Immigration Counselors will be on hand to explain the eligibility requirements for naturalization, and the Naturalization Application Process.

- **What Is Naturalization?**

Naturalization is commonly referred to as the manner in which a person not born a citizen voluntarily becomes a U.S. citizen.

- **How can I become a U.S. citizen?**

You may become a U.S. citizen (1) by birth or (2) through naturalization.

- **How do I become a naturalized citizen?**

Eligible persons use the "Application for Naturalization" (Form N-400) to apply for naturalization.

You must be at least 18 years old, and a Lawful Permanent Resident for at least 4 years and 9 months or at least 2 years and 9 months if married to a U.S. citizen. Other requirements may affect you depending on individual circumstances.

Naturalization Application Process

1. Complete the Application

Send application, documents, and fee of \$675.00 (check or money order) to the USCIS.

2. Confirmation

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will mail a notice verifying the receipt of the application.

3. Fingerprints

USCIS will mail a fingerprint notification letter indicating the date and location to take the fingerprints.

4. The Interview

USCIS will send notice of an appointment for the interview.

5. Oath Ceremony

USCIS will mail an appointment for the Oath Ceremony.

Upon taking the oath, the applicant will then become a United States citizen!

Naturalization Interview

Applicants need to bring any necessary documents required by USCIS, if indicated in the notice.

At your naturalization interview, you will be required to answer questions about your application and background. You will also take an English and civics test unless you qualify for an exemption or waiver.

The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask you up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. You will also be evaluated on your ability to speak, read, write, and understand English at your interview.

At the end of the interview, the USCIS officer will provide a decision regarding the application.

Who Qualifies for the

Exemptions from language requirement

- Persons unable to comply because of physical or developmental disability or mental impairment
- Persons over 50 years of age and living in US as Legal Permanent Resident for 20 years or more.
- Persons over 55 years of age and living in US as Legal Permanent Resident for 15 years or more.
- "Special consideration" given those over age 65 with 20 years as Legal Permanent Resident.

You should always be honest with USCIS about all:

- Arrests (even if you were not charged or convicted);
- Convictions (even if your record was cleared or expunged);
- Crimes you have committed for which you were not arrested or convicted; and
- Any countervailing evidence, or evidence in your favor concerning the circumstances of your arrests, and/or convictions or offenses that you would like USCIS to consider.

Benefits of U.S. Citizenship

- **Voting**
Only U.S. citizens can vote in Federal elections.
- **Priority to bring family members to the United States**
Citizens generally get priority when petitioning to bring family members permanently to this country.
- **Obtaining citizenship for children born abroad**
In many cases, a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen is automatically a U.S. citizen.
- **Traveling with a U.S. passport**
A U.S. passport allows you to get assistance from the U.S. government when overseas
- **Becoming eligible for Federal jobs**
Most jobs with government agencies require U.S. citizenship.
- **Becoming an elected official**
Many elected offices in this country require U.S. citizenship.
- **Showing your patriotism**
In addition, becoming a U.S. citizen is a way to demonstrate your commitment to your new country.

Responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship

To become a U.S. citizen you must take the Oath of Allegiance. The Oath of Allegiance includes several promises you make when you become a U.S. citizen, including promises to:

- **Give up all prior allegiance to any other nation or sovereignty;**
- **Swear allegiance to the United States;**
- **Support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States; and**
- **Serve the country when required.**

Other responsibilities than the ones mentioned in the Oath.:

- **Citizens have a responsibility to participate in the political process by registering and voting in elections.**
- **Serving on a jury.**
- **Tolerance for differences is also a responsibility of citizenship.**

When you decide to become a U.S. citizen, you should be willing to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship, respect the freedoms and opportunities citizenship gives you.



Immigrant Heritage Week 2010

New York City will celebrate the seventh annual Immigrant Heritage Week with a series of events honoring the experiences and contribu-

tions of the millions of immigrants who have shaped the city for generations. Declared an official, annual celebration by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Immigrant Heritage Week 2010 begins on April 17th, the date in 1907 when the highest number of immigrants in history passed through Ellis Island.

Borough President Helen Marshall will present The Annual Immigrant Heritage Week Event at the QMA "Queens Cares: A Forum & Celebration for Immigrant Service Providers and the Communities They Serve"

Date: Wednesday, April 21st

Time: 5:30 - 9 PM

Location: Queens Museum of Art, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Parking: Free parking available in front of museum

Transportation: #7 to Willets Point - Mets Stadium

EIIC UPCOMING EVENTS



2010 Census Road Tour

April 8, 2010

4:00AM- 6:00PM

Emerald Isle Immigration Center
59-26 Woodside Avenue
Woodside, NY 11377

Learn about the
2010 Census
and
the positive impact can
have on your local
community and
the nation



May Edition:

- Memorial Day
- Mothers Day

Citizenship Drive

April 17, 2010

10AM –1PM

How to apply for United States Citizenship?

Informational Workshop

Queens Office
59-26 Woodside Ave
Woodside, NY 11377
Tel: (718) 478-5502

Bronx Office
4275 Katonah Avenue
Woodlawn, NY 10470
Tel: 718-324-3039

Do you need assistance with applying for citizenship?
Do you have questions about naturalization and eligibility?
Are you interested in having an Immigration Counselor
help you to submit your application?

Please bring:

- Green Card
- Criminal Court Dispositions
- All passports
- Social Security Card
- Marriage & Divorce certificates
- Spouse & Children's birth certificates

Basic Requirements for Naturalization

- You must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- You must have been a lawful permanent resident (green card holder) for at least 4 years and 9 months or at least 2 years and 9 months if married to a U.S. citizen .
- You must have been a resident of the state from which you are applying for at least three months.
- Other requirements may affect you depending on individual circumstances.



Your community's guardian angel since 1984.



Free and affordable healthcare
for children and adults in
New York City and Nassau County

Helping you to
Take Control of Your Finance