

## Event Moderator

**Spencer Liechty** serves as assistant vice president for Mission Integration at Canisius and is responsible for leading the University community in developing and implementing its Ignatian vision and advancing its mission as a Catholic, Jesuit, urban university. In this role he provides a pastoral presence to Canisius students and assists in the development of their spiritual growth through the planning and coordination of activities and programs focused on spiritual ministry and social justice.

## Panel Members

**Jennifer Connor** is a founding member of Justice for Migrant Families and has served as Executive Director since July 2019. She directs organizing and advocacy for access to immigration legal resources and she serves as the Green Light Steering Committee member and an anchor member for Fund Excluded Workers. Her prior experience is in adult and early childhood education, arts in activism, and organizing on global demilitarization and ecological issues.

**Crystal Massey** has long volunteered with asylum seekers in the borderlands and has held positions with the Hope Border Institute (HOPE), Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), and the CARA/Dilley Project. She is currently the Volunteer Engagement Manager for the Immigration Justice Campaign, a joint project of the American Immigration Council and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

**Heidi Ostertag** began her career at Worldwide Documentaries in 1985 and over nearly 4 decades has established lasting personal and professional relationships with hundreds of individuals from all walks of life who are part of the documentary filmmaking process. As Worldwide's Executive Producer she manages and oversees the work that culminates with products such as *Running to Stand Still*. She is a deeply compassionate human being and a person of enormous integrity and honesty who listens well and provides straight and thoughtful answers.

**Shyam Sriram**, PhD, is an assistant professor of political science and director of the Political Science Program at Canisius University and author of *Refugee Resettlement in the U.S.* His work explores the complex intersections of religion, immigration policy, and American politics. Raised in a Hindu family, Dr. Sriram converted to Islam in 2006. His unique background and extensive research experience provide valuable insights into some of today's most pressing social and political issues. As the founder of Canisius University's Muslim Students Association and Every Campus a Refuge, he demonstrates a deep commitment to social justice and practical application of political science principles.

**Matthew Tice** is a licensed clinical social worker who returned to Buffalo after 12 years in Philadelphia where he worked specifically with people experiencing chronic homelessness. At Jericho Road he was initially responsible for day-to-day operations at Vive before assuming broader responsibilities as Director of Asylum Seeker Programs. Jericho Road and Vive are committed to continuing the critical work of offering shelter, legal support, and community resources for refugees.



## COMMUNITY FORUM: MIGRATION & ASYLUM

Montante Cultural Center  
Canisius University  
2001 Main Street

Saturday, April 5, 2025  
2:30–4:30 p.m.

Featuring: Buffalo Premier of  
Worldwide Documentaries Film:

**RUNNING TO STAND STILL:**  
*Migrants Search for Hope in the Promised Land*

## COMMUNITY FORUM: MIGRATION & ASYLUM

### Event sponsors

**Canisius University** (Campus Ministry, Borders & Migrations Initiative,  
Joseph J. Naples Conversations in Christ and Culture)

**WNY Peace Center** (Latin American Solidarity Committee)

### Event co-sponsors

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church - Buffalo

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

Buffalo House of Hope

Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team

Buffalo Vineyard Church

Jericho Road Community Health Center-Vive

Journey's End WNY Refugee Film Festival

Justice for Migrant Families

Karen Society of Buffalo

Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church

Partnership for the Public Good

Pilgrim-St Luke's UCC

Rural & Migrant Ministry

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur

Ss. Columba Brigid Catholic Church

St. Joseph University Catholic Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

True Bethel Baptist Church

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

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### Program Schedule

2:30	<b>Welcome</b>
2:33	<b>Film</b>
3:00	<b>Introductions and initial statement of each panel member</b> (see back of program for participant biographical information)
3:35	<b>Panel discussion</b> (collection of audience question cards)
3:50	<b>Audience stretch break</b>
3:55	<b>Panel response to audience questions</b>
4:25	<b>Wrap -up</b>