



DIASPORA
DOCUMENTED

ABOUT DIASPORA DOCUMENTED

Diaspora Documented served as a digital "pop-up."

Created using Squarespace, Diaspora Documented featured stories of first-generation Americans and allies.

The purpose of Diaspora Documented was to connect individuals who experienced intergenerational trauma. Readers could find resources local to RI and MA.

PHOTOS OF THE SITE



Interviews • 8/5/20

Alex Kithes | Woonsocket City Councilman-at-Large

Read about Greek-American Woonsocket City Councilman-at-Large and climate change activist Alex Kithes.

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Interviews • 6/13/20

Anonymous | 16



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On the 13th of June, 2020, we had the opportunity to interview a teenage undocumented immigrant born in South America active in the Black Lives Matter movement.

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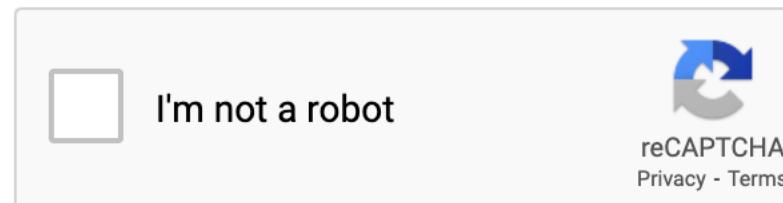
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"representation matters."

At Diaspora Documented, we believe that representation matters. Here we showcase previously unseen intergenerational trauma and its effects on QTPOC immigrants/immigrant descendants.

Our website portrays the stories and many of the faces of the aforementioned groups of people who struggle with intergenerational trauma. Our goal is to uplift marginalized people, one story and one image at a time.



Diaspora Documented was created as a learning project, funded by GripTape. First proposed as an idea by Arouney Sithtaphone, a high school freshman at the time of writing, to Julia "Jules" Nguyen, a newly-graduated alumni, both of Woonsocket High School in Woonsocket, RI, it soon formed into a blog aiming to portray struggle and diversity from the lenses of people of color and various generations of immigrants/refugees.

Jules and Arouney are second-generation Southeast Asian-Americans. Jules' family is from Vietnam while Arouney's family is from Laos. They both understand what it feels like to struggle as immigrant POCs in America and are empowered by stories of diversity.

A large part of Diaspora Documented isn't just stories; it's also supporting marginalized people in our community. Please consider reaching out to the featured nonprofits focusing on uplifting local POCs of various ethnic backgrounds in our Resources page.

Thanks for visiting! We hope you enjoy reading about the people featured here as much as we enjoyed getting to know them.

Co-Creators Jules Nguyen (left) and Arouney Sithtaphone (right)

Resources for Undocumented Citizens



Resources for POC



Resources for LGBTQ+ POC



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Interviews
Aug 5

Alex Kithes | Woonsocket City Councilman-at-Large



Nguyen, J. Photograph of Alex Kithes. Oct. 2019. Author's personal collection.

Read a previously archived interview with Alex Kithes, climate change activist and Woonsocket City Councilman-at-Large. This interview was conducted by Jules in late October of 2019.

Jules: Tell me about your background. For example, what's your ethnicity? Where'd you go to university? High school? How does it tie into your work as a city councilman?

Alex: I was born and raised in Woonsocket, to Greek immigrant parents (my mom was born in Greece and emigrated here as a child; my dad was born in LA but grew up in Greece and moved back here as a young adult). I graduated from Woonsocket High School in 2010, from Boston University with a bachelors in electrical engineering in 2014, and from Brown University with a masters in chemical engineering in 2016. Being raised in a working class family, and going to public school in a working class community, really shaped my worldview, and my understanding of the fundamental class struggle between the working class and the wealthy, powerful, establishment forces. This has naturally led me to a progressive style of governance: supporting housing and labor justice and being staunchly pro-union; seeking to protect the local environment and its tie-in to the health of our community; doing our part to address the climate crisis at home and working towards community resiliency in the face of what's to come; providing for a strong public educational system; and underlying it all with good, transparent, accessible government to the end that everyone in our wonderfully diverse city will have a seat at the table.

Jules: What/who sparked your interest in local politics?

Alex: This is a somewhat complicated story. To quote the About Me page on my side (since I like how it's worded): My work as a community activist and organizer started in high school, fighting alongside my classmates and teachers against education cuts. Since then, I successfully campaigned to legalize backyard chicken-keeping in the city and published a biweekly column in The Woonsocket Call on the climate, environment, and sustainable agriculture. I also worked on the campaign of David Fisher, who ran for mayor in 2013 on a very progressive platform, the same year my progressive friend Melissa Murray first won her council seat. All of these things helped me to understand the power and potential of municipal government to make peoples' lives better and foster progressive change. That ultimately led to

Anonymous | 16

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Jules: Tell me about your ethnic background, family life, etc. Anything about your life we should know.

Anon: I am a 16-year old Hispanic. Hispanic (dad) and white (mom). I grew up in a broken-down house elsewhere for the first 4 years of my life before I moved to a slightly better house in this city. The house elsewhere was in a bad neighborhood. I remember that my old apartment was old and rusty in parts. We hardly had any furniture or food to eat. I remember eating only canned foods.

Jules: If you don't mind me asking, what is it like living with that... duality of being biracial? Like day-to-day stuff, expectations, whatever you can think of as well. Any struggles stand out particularly?

Anon: Growing up in a Hispanic household was fun. I remember we danced to Daddy Yankee or Aventura, the music is a bop. Other things like eating some bomb foods. You can never have enough! Some struggles my parents had were mainly money. We hardly had it. So clothes and other stuff, we live without. After we moved to this city, we still faced some money problems that remain to this day. The house I currently live in is the house I moved to 10 years ago. Still the house is old and has damage, inside and out.

My first time witnessing racism was with my father. I remember us in a park. A white family's son and I were playing. When the lady asked where my parents were, I took her to him and she was rude towards him. She would give him dirty

Here are some resources that the Diaspora Documented team find it important to highlight for undocumented citizens.
Find more resources on our ever-growing Resources page.

<http://www.sojournerri.org> - Sojourner RI assists with not only domestic and sexual violence cases in the state of Rhode Island, but also help with the completion of forms, filings with USCIS, provide representation at asylum interviews (credible fear and reasonable fear interviews), and representation before the immigration court.

<http://www.casori.org> - CASO RI provides undocumented students resources in the state of Rhode Island.

<https://diiri.org/> - Dorcas International offers programs and services, including legal representation, ESL classes, and more for immigrants in RI.

<https://progresolatino.org/> - Progreso Latino is an organization dedicated to helping Latinx people and immigrants in RI socioeconomically.

<https://miracoalition.org/> - The MIRA Coalition is a Massachusetts and New Hampshire-based coalition focused on the promotion of rights and integration of immigrants and refugees, offering education, training, and much more.

"No man is an island."- John Donne