

For immediate release:

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Photographs available

Interviews available: Joana Dos Santos

Fitchburg Historical Society Presents History Talk
“From Uruguay to Fitchburg: Oral Histories and New Research”

Looking at Three Generations of Immigrant Experience in Fitchburg and Leominster

The Fitchburg Historical Society will present a talk by Fitchburg resident Joana Dos Santos, speaking on her recent research into immigration history and its effect on identity. The talk is entitled “From Uruguay to Fitchburg: Oral Histories and New Research” and will take place on Thursday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Fitchburg Historical Society. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Joana Dos Santos researched the growth in Fitchburg’s Spanish-speaking citizens for a recent M.A. thesis at Fitchburg State University. As part of her research, Dos Santos interviewed people who represented three separate waves of immigration from central and South America to Fitchburg and Leominster. At this talk, she will share some stories that shed light on their experiences moving from one culture to another. Some of the topics Dos Santos researched include language acquisition, employment experience, effects on the family and adjusting to new cultural expectations.

A daughter of immigrants from Uruguay, Dos Santos has served as the director of the United Neighbors of Fitchburg/Cleghorn Neighborhood Center. She has also been honored for her community activities by the Rotary Club of Fitchburg, at their annual Paul Harris dinner.

The Fitchburg Historical Society and Crocker Family Center for the History of Fitchburg is located at 781 Main Street, Fitchburg in the historic Phoenix building. For more information, call 978-345-1157, write welcome@fitchburghhistoricalsociety.com, visit www.fitchburghhistoricalsociety.org or <https://www.facebook.com/FitchburgHistoricalSociety>.

There is abundant on-street parking near the Historical Society and free parking behind the building. The building is handicapped accessible.

About the Fitchburg Historical Society: Founded by James F.D. Garfield in 1892, the Fitchburg Historical Society is an independent non-profit that was created to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Fitchburg. Now located in an historic H.M. Francis-designed building on Main Street, the Society hosts lectures, exhibits and annual events relating to the city's history. Exhibitions and educational programming about Fitchburg history are supported by a grant from The George R. Wallace Foundation, with additional funding from the Fitchburg Cultural Council, and are presented in the George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall.