With a story that speaks to the melting pot of the early 20th century and the enduring nature of the American Dream, the musical Ragtime is an apt backdrop for a lively and informative discussion of the challenges facing immigrants today.

ABOUT RAGTIME

At the dawn of the 20th century, when everything is changing...and anything is possible, Ragtime weaves together three distinctly American tales—a stifled upper-class wife, a determined Jewish immigrant, and a daring Harlem musician—united by their courage and their belief in obtaining the American Dream.
FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS:
THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE
1:00—2:30 PM

Brooke Mead from the Berkshire Immigrant Center will lead a panel discussion about the current federal immigration laws and the impact of these laws upon the immigrant community in Berkshire County. The panel will examine the ways in which federal laws are being enforced by state and local law enforcement officials and the attendant response from the local community.

SPEAKER: Brooke Mead, Director, Berkshire Immigrant Center
MODERATOR: Chief Michael Wynn, Pittsfield Police Department
PANELISTS: Hilary Greene, Outgoing Director, Berkshire Immigrant Center
Michele Sisselman, Attorney - US Immigration & Naturalization Law
Maxine Stein, President, Jewish Family Services of Western Massachusetts

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS
3:00—4:30 PM

Professor Charles Park will lead a panel discussion about his Berkshire Immigrant Stories Project at BCC and the impact of these stories on the community. The panel includes established and recent Berkshire immigrants and will seek to raise awareness to the challenges they face as they become a part of the economic, political and cultural fabric of the community.

SPEAKER: Dr. Charles Park, Assistant Professor of English at BCC & Berkshire Immigration Stories Project Director
MODERATOR: Dara Kaufman, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
PANELISTS: Cecilia Del Cid, Interim Coordinator, Multicultural Center, BCC
A.J. Enchill, District Aide for Senator Adam Hinds
Vijay Mahida, Operator of the Hilton Garden Inn (Pittsfield) and the Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites (Great Barrington)
Reinout van Wagentdonk, Accents column in Berkshire Eagle

Reception in the Mainstage Lobby following each Panel. Please call the Box Office to make a reservation.
413.236.8888 BarringtonStageCo.org